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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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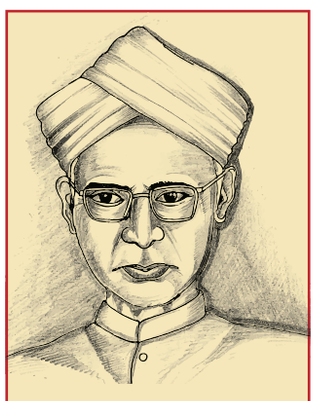

SALAR DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY
wishes its readers a
HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY

With Silver in shot-put, India bags 21 Para medals

PARIS, 4 SEPT

World champion Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched a silver in men's shot put F46 event with an Asian record distance of 16.32m as the country's track-and-field athletes continued their unprecedented medal-winning run in the Paralympic Games here on Wednesday.

His silver was medal number 21 for the nation, which is currently placed 19th in the overall standings with three gold, eight silver and 10 bronze medals.

The 34-year-old Khilari achieved his best throw of the day in his second attempt to better his own Asian record of 16.30m which he set while winning gold in the World Para-Athletics Championships in Japan in May.

However, the effort, which was also his personal best, was not enough for the top honour as Greg Stewart of Canada defended his Tokyo Paralympics gold with a throw of 16.38m.

Luka Bakovic of Croatia took the bronze with 16.27m.

F46 classification is for athletes with arm deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in arms, with athletes competing in a standing position.

On Wednesday, Khilari was leading at the end of the second round but Stewart surged ahead with his third throw of 16.34m before improving further in his fifth and penultimate attempt of 16.38m.

A mechanical engineering degree holder, Khilari, who had also won a gold in last year's Asian Para Games in China, has an impaired left hand. He also worked as a visiting faculty member at various institutions, assisting students in their UPSC and Maharashtra Public Service examination preparations. *—PTI*

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Sachin Khilari
PHOTO: X@SPORTSARENA1234

PM psychologically finished: RaGa begins J&K campaign

RaGa vows J&K statehood restoration, attacks 'king' LG

JAMMU, 4 SEPT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lost his confidence after the recently held Lok Sabha elections and the time is not far when his government will be removed.

Rahul kick-started his party's election campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, assuring people that his party along with the help of INDIA bloc partners will ensure the restoration of statehood to the Union territory.

At a poll rally at Sangaldan, he claimed the Central government is run by Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and their corporate friends.

Gandhi alleged that the Lieutenant Governor appointed by the Centre in Jammu and Kashmir is acting like a "21st-century king" and all benefits are being given to people from "outside" .

Targeting Modi over the unemployment issue, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said implementation of GST and demonetisation harmed the interests of small businesses as the government is working for two billionaires.

He alleged that Jammu and Kashmir's statehood was "snatched" following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution "to benefit the two billionaires".

Rahul Gandhi and Farooq Abdullah during a rally, in Jammu's Anantnag, on Wednesday ***PHOTO: PTI***

The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is worse than the rest of the country as it has the highest unemployment rate and the government has done nothing to generate employment opportunities for the youth, Gandhi claimed.

Launching a broadside on Modi, Gandhi said he has claimed to have a direct connection with God and "is on record having said that his birth is non-biological".

Congress is in alliance with the National Conference for the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir that will take place in three phases on 18, 25 September and 1 October.

—PTI

Bajrang Punia, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Vinesh Phogat in New Delhi on Wednesday ***PHOTO: PTI***

Vinesh, Punia to likely contest Haryana polls

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

Wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat met former Congress president Rahul Gandhi here on Wednesday with sources saying they are likely to contest the upcoming Haryana Assembly polls on the party's ticket.

Sources said deliberations are on to finalise the seats for the two wrestlers with Julana and Badli seats under consideration for Phogat and Punia respectively.

Congress put out a photograph of Gandhi with Phogat and Punia on its official X handle.

Asked whether Phogat and Punia could contest on a Congress ticket, AICC General Secretary In-charge of Haryana Deepak Babaria said there is a possibility and it would become clear by Thursday or Friday.

Punia is a Tokyo Games bronze medallist, while Phogat became the first woman wrestler to reach the Olympics final, the stage where she was disqualified after being found over weight by about 100g in her 50kg category weigh-in. She subsequently announced her retirement from the sport.

Congress' Central Election Committee (CEC) has cleared the names of candidates for 66 seats out of 90 till Tuesday.

Punia and Phogat were part of the protest over sexual harassment allegations against former BJP MP and then Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in 2023. *—PTI*

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Boko Haram militants kill 100 in Nigerian village

MAIDUGURI, 4 SEPT

At least 100 villagers were killed in northeastern Nigeria when suspected Boko Haram Islamic extremists opened fire on a market, on worshippers and in people's homes, residents said Wednesday, the latest killings in Africa's longest struggle with militancy. More than 50 extremists on motorcycles rode into the Tarmuwa council area of Yobe state on Sunday evening and began firing before setting buildings ablaze, according to Yobe police spokesperson Dungus Abdulkarim. Boko Haram has since splintered into different. *—PTI*

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Shahi Idgah: Muslim side moves SC against HC order

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

The Muslim side has moved Supreme Court against Allahabad High Court order rejecting their plea challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura. The plea challenging the 1 August order of the High Court has been filed in the apex court by the Committee of Management Trust, Shahi Masjid Idgah through advocate RHA Sikander. Sikander said the plea is likely to be taken up for hearing next week. On 1 August, High Court rejected the plea challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the temple-mosque dispute in Mathura. *—PTI*

Woman molested in ambulance by driver, helper

SIDDHARTHNAGAR, 4 SEPT

A woman was allegedly sexually assaulted by the driver and helper of a private ambulance she hired to transport her terminally ill husband home, police said on Wednesday. The accused also disconnected the oxygen support of her husband, who later died, they said. The woman's husband was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Lucknow. Due to financial constraints, she decided to discharge and take home in a private ambulance. The driver and helper harassed the woman. When she resisted their attempts, the driver stopped the ambulance 150km from their destination and forced her and the husband out of the vehicle. *—PTI*

'Blood found on Darshan's clothes'

BENGALURU, 4 SEPT

Blood stains of Renukaswamy were found on the clothes of Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and footwear worn by Pavithra Gowda, according to a 3,991-page preliminary chargesheet and Forensic Science Laboratory reports submitted by Bengaluru City Police before 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court on Wednesday.

The tower locations of all the 17 accused in the case, including Darshan and his partner Gowda, were matched with the crime scene. The calls and messages among the accused have matched the timing of the crime on 8 June 2024, according to the chargesheet containing seven volumes and 10 files.

A "watertight" chargesheet was prepared after investigating the case from all aspects, Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said here. The chargesheet comprises 231 witness statements and technical and electronic evidence, police said. "We have arrested 17 people in this case who are in judicial custody. There are three direct eyewitnesses; 27 witnesses have given their statements before the court and other witnesses have recorded their statements before the police," Dayananda said.

Darshan Thoogudeepa

"We have sent several materials pertaining to the investigation to FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory) here and CFSL (Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Hyderabad). We have received their reports but some reports from CFSL are yet to come," he said.

Police said the chargesheet against the 17 accused has been filed based on the accounts of eye-witnesses, and circumstantial, technical, scientific and other evidence collected by the investigators. *—Salar News*

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MANIPUR EX-COP'S HOME SET ABLAZE

IMPHAL, 4 SEPT

Fresh arson erupted in Manipur's Jiribam after suspected 'tribal village volunteers' set a house on fire early Wednesday morning, police said. The three-room house at Jakuradhor in the district belonged to a retired police officer. The family had vacated the property following previous violence, police added. This incident took place despite an agreement between representatives of Meitei and Hmar communities to restore normalcy and prevent further arson during a meeting held on 1 August at a CRPF facility in Assam's Cachar. *—PTI*

India ideal investment hub: PM in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 4 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday arrived here for a two-day visit aimed at boosting India-Singapore friendship, deepening 'strategic partnership' and attracting investment from the Southeast Asian country.

During his visit at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong, he will connect with three generations of Singapore's leadership, officials said.

"Landed in Singapore. Looking forward to the various meetings aimed at boosting the India-Singapore friendship. India's reforms and the talent of our Yuva Shakti makes our nation an ideal investment destination. *—PTI*

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Singapore PM Lawrence Wong with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, in Singapore, on Wednesday ***PHOTO: PTI***

Singapore firm to invest ₹90K crore in India

Singapore-based diversified real estate group CapitaLand is planning to double its investment in India to over Rs 90,280 crore by 2028, the city-state's envoy to India said on Wednesday. The news report came on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore.

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'SODOMY AN OFFENCE'

MBBS books dub lesbianism unnatural

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

National Medical Commission has reintroduced 'sodomy and lesbianism' as unnatural sexual offences in the forensic medicine and toxicology curriculum for undergraduate medical students.

It has also brought back topics such as the hymen and its type, and its medico-legal importance besides defining virginity and defloration, legitimacy and its medico-legal importance.

These subjects were done away with in 2022 in accordance with a Madras High Court directive.

The revised curriculum under forensic medicine and toxicology also includes "Describe legal competencies including Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS),

PHOTO: FREEPIK

- The controversial textbook also includes sexual perversions, fetishism, sadism, voyeurism, exhibitionism, transvestism, and necrophilia

Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)" besides "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), Civil and Criminal Cases, Inquest (Police Inquest and Magistrate's Inquest), cognisable and Non-cognisable offences".

The controversial textbook also includes sexual perversions, fetishism, sadism, voyeurism, exhibitionism, transvestism, and necrophilia. However, there is no mention of consensual sex between queer individuals.

The amended curriculum has done away with the seven-hour training on disability.

The Commission claims the changes are part of an outcome-driven curriculum aligned with global trends, aiming to create an "Indian medical graduate" with requisite knowledge, skills, and values. However, critics argue that the reintroduction of these topics may perpetuate harmful attitudes towards marginalised communities.

The revised curriculum also focuses on medico-legal frameworks, codes of conduct, and medical ethics, with an emphasis on alignment and integration of subjects.

The commission said it aims to produce a primary care physician with skills in promotive, preventative, rehabilitative, palliative care, and referral services. *—PTI*

Himachal MLAs who change parties will not get pensions

SHIMLA, 4 SEPT

Himachal Pradesh assembly on Wednesday passed a bill to revoke the pension benefit of those state legislators who have been disqualified under the anti-defection law.

According to the bill, "A person shall not be entitled for pension under the Act, if he has been disqualified at any point of time under the tenth schedule of the Constitution (anti-defecation law)".

"They want to gain political benefits through such corrupt practices. This Bill was essential to be introduced to strengthen democracy. Our assembly passed it today through voice vote," Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu told ANI after the bill was passed. The statement of object and reasons of the proposed amendment says the bill was needed as there was no provision in the 1971 Act to discourage the defection of members, deter them from committing constitutional sins, protect the mandate given by people and preserve democratic values.

Sukhvinder Sukhu ***PHOTO: PTI***

Earlier on 29 February, assembly speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania had under the anti-defection law disqualified six Congress MLAs who had cross-voted for the BJP in the Rajya Sabha elections.

—Salar with agencies.

Gangster Bachcha Khan arrested for extortion in City

HUBBALLI, 4 SEPT

Notorious criminal Bachcha Khan and seven others have been arrested in an extortion attempt case, Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar said on Wednesday. Khan, a convict in a murder case, was out on 45 days' parole when he was taken into custody, he said. According to him, a 70-year-old man in Mantur village in Hubballi-Dharwad region received several calls from two phone numbers between 18 and 20 August. "There was some dispute related to his land. Financial transaction had not been completed and hence he was going to the person concerned regularly to pursue his payment. The unknown caller also told the victim about the routine of his family members." —*PTI*

Yoga guru held for allegedly raping NRI woman

CHIKKAMAGALURU, 4 SEPT

A yoga teacher has been arrested here for allegedly raping a Non Resident Indian (NRI) under the pretext of having a relationship with her in her previous birth, police said on Wednesday. Based on a complaint by the woman, the police registered a case against the Pradeep Ullal, 54, of Kevala Foundation in Mallenahalli in that district. The complainant hails from Punjab but is settled in California, USA. The victim alleged that she visited the Yoga Guru thrice between 2021 and 2022 when she was sexually assaulted. —*PTI*

Farmers protest over Aadhaar & pumpset linkage

MYSURU, 4 SEPT

The members of Karnataka State Sugarcane Growers Association's units in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts protested outside the office of Managing Director of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (CESCOM) in Mysuru on Wednesday. They condemned the State government's move to link the Aadhaar number of farmers to irrigation pumpsets owned by them. They demanded the government withdraw from this decision as it is detrimental to the interest of farmers, as most of them are marginal. They also criticised the State government's move to collect power bills for irrigation pumpsets owned by farmers. The protesters also urged the government to provide a minimum support price for all farm crops, uninterrupted 8 hours of power supply for irrigation pumpsets, and ensure 200 units of free power supply to all households instead of putting restrictions under the Gruha Jyothi scheme. —*Salar News*

2nd batch of Dasara jumbos to arrive in Mysuru today

MYSURU, 4 SEPT

District in-charge minister HC Mahadevappa on Wednesday said that second batch of five dasara elephants will arrive to Mysuru Palace on Thursday. Speaking to reporters after holding the meeting with the panel officials, he said that the first batch of nine dasara jumbos including golden howdah carrying Abhimanyu had already arrived and are undergoing exercise to acclimatise to the City environment. He said that the State government has already constituted 19 sub committees for the success of 'Naada Habba Dasara' celebrations. Instructions have been given to all the committees to make all necessary preparations after holding a meeting with them. He said that the State government has not yet decided about the guest inaugurating this year's celebrations atop Chamundi Hill on 3 October. Referring to the increasing number of aspirants for CMs post, he said "At present the CMs post is not vacant now. There will be no change of guard in the State. It will not happen also."—*PTI*

'Renukaswamy's body pics found in accused's phone'

In the chargesheet, Pavithra is named 1st accused, Darshan 2nd

BENGALURU, 4 SEPT

Police had recovered photographs of Darshan fan Renukaswamy's body from the mobile phone of one of the accused, according to the preliminary chargesheet submitted by Bengaluru City Police before 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court on Wednesday.

These pictures were allegedly taken at the scene of the crime (parking shed) and sent to other prime accused in the case, police sources said.

Darshan fan Renukaswamy was murdered as he had allegedly sent offensive messages to Pavithra, the chargesheet said. Gowda is the first accused and she is the main reason for the murder, the chargesheet said. Darshan is the second accused in the case, according to police officials.

The chargesheet mentions the role of Darshan and Gowda in conspiracy, planning, kidnapping, torture, murder, destruction of evidence, and plan to mislead police by getting four of his associates to surrender to police.

The court will begin the trial of the case soon after the formalities of the submission of the chargesheet are completed. Darshan's counsels will move his bail petition and the court had earlier rejected the bail plea of Gowda.

She is also expected to present the bail petition again following the submission of the chargesheet.

The chargesheet contains the statement of one of the accused, who agreed to become an approver in the case, giving police the details of Darshan and others in the crime.

Police have recovered messages from Darshan's phone, in which he was told about when Renukaswamy was brought to the shed at Pattanagere in Benglauru.

Police have also got evidence of CCTV footage of Darshan leaving a pub in RR Nagar and reaching the shed in the Pattanagere and again coming back to the pub after assaulting Renukaswamy.

In between, Darshan had gone to his residence to change his clothes and police have also gathered the footage about this as well.

—*Salar News with PTI*

The court will begin the trial of Darshan's case soon after formalities of submitting the chargesheet are completed **PHOTO: ANI**

Junk Darshan's 6106 jail number stickers: RTO

Regional Transport Office (RTO) has issued a stern warning to vehicle owners who are displaying his earlier undertrail number 6106 and Bellary jail undertrial No. 511 stickers on their cars, bikes, and autos. The under-trial number 6106 and 511 assigned to Darshan, has become a symbol of admiration among his fans. Speaking to **Salar News**, Additional Transport Commissioner C Mallikarjun said, that displaying photos or any other unauthorised inscriptions related to favourite actors on vehicles is illegal. He warned that RTO will take strict action against vehicles found with provocative writings." —*Salar News*

IN LETTER TO CM

K'taka film body demands Hema panel-like probe

BENGALURU, 4 SEPT

Film Industry for Rights and Equality (FIRE), an industry body, called on the State government to form a committee to investigate the working conditions and instances of sexual harassment faced by women in the Kannada film industry. This move follows alarming revelations from the Justice Hema Committee report in Kerala, which highlighted rampant sexual harassment within the Malayalam film industry.

In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, copies of which are in possession of **Salar News**, FIRE has urged the establishment of a high-level committee led by a retired High Court or Supreme Court judge with a strong track record in gender justice. The organisation has requested that the committee's findings be completed and made public within three months. The petition, supported by 153 signatories including actors, writers, and gender activists, emphasizes the need for systemic reforms and a safer, more equitable work environment.

The letter said the committee must investigate the systemic issues in the Kannada film industry and recommend policies to ensure a healthier work environment. FIRE has also offered to assist in the selection of the committee members and act as a liaison if needed.

Among the prominent figures endorsing the petition are directors Kavita Lankesh and KM Chaitanya, as well as actors Ramya, Aindrita Ray, Pooja Gandhi, Sruthi Hariharan, Chaitra J Achar, Samyuktha Hegde, Hitha, Sudeep, Chetan Ahimsa, Diganth Manchale, Kiran Srinivas, and Kishore.

—*Salar News*

PHOTO: FB/@FIRE

INDIA INNOVATION SUMMIT

Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, IT & BT Minister Priyank Kharge and Chairman, CII India Innoverge Kamal Bali at inauguration of 20th edition of India Innovation Summit 2024 in Bengaluru, on Wednesday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

BJP–JD(S) faces upset in Nanjangud CMC polls

MYSURU, 4 SEPT

Despite holding a comfortable majority of seats, BJP–JD(S) alliance faced a big defeat in Nanjangud City Municipal Council (CMC) elections on Wednesday as it lost to Congress on Wednesday.

Even though the district BJP unit had issued a whip to all its 15 councillors, BJP-JD(S) alliance lost the polls as three JD(S) candidates—Riyana Banu, Khaleed Ahmed and Ramesh Babu— switched to Congress' side at last minute. Additionally, four BJP councillors and one Independent skipped the voting process.

Congress' D Srikanta Swamy was elected President, and Riyana was elected Vice President. Both candidates garnered 16 votes each.

Out of the total 31 seats, BJP holds 15, Congress 10, JD(S) has three, and the remaining three are Independents. Congress win was also made possible because of support from MLA Darshan Dhruvanarayana and MP Sunil Bose, who also had voting rights.

BJP's candidates P Devu and Manjula Ananth contesting for President and Vice President respectively, ended up with 12 votes each, losing out despite the alliance's initial advantage.

District BJP President LR Mahadevaswamy suspended four BJP councillors—Girishkumar, Gayathri, Meenakshi, and Vijayalakshmi—for six years, citing their involvement in anti-party activities and absence from the voting. Mahadevaswamy also announced plans to file a lawsuit against them for defying the party whip. — *Salar News*

BJP to intensify fight against Cong, to discuss next phase of agitation

BENGALURU, 4 SEPT

BJP seems to be planning to intensify its fight against Congress government in Karnataka, with its senior leader and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday stating that the party will decide on the next phase of agitation, in consultation with its national leadership.

A group of BJP leaders under the leadership of senior legislators Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and Ramesh Jarkiholi is planning to take out a 'padayatra' (foot march) to highlight 'Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation' scam, and diversion of funds meant for the welfare of the SC/STs to guarantee schemes, by the Congress government.

"There is no question of first and second padayatra, everyone together, after discussion with party national President (JP Nadda) and Union Home Minister (Amit Shah) the party will decide on the next phase of the fight (against the state government). So everyone will sit together, discuss and decide," Joshi told reporters in New Delhi in response to a question.

The march planned by a section of BJP led by Yatnal and Jarkiholi, who are said to be disgruntled against state BJP chief BY Vijayendra and his father and veteran leader BS Yediyurappa "controlling the State unit", is being seen as a counter to the march to Mysuru, which was led by Vijayendra. —*PTI*

Congress leaders and workers protest against BJP MLC Chalavadi Narayanaswamy in Bengaluru on Wednesday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Resign respectfully before court verdict: BSY to CM

SHIVAMOGGA, 4 SEPT

Veteran BJP leader BS Yediyurappa on Wednesday sought to nudge Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to resign from the post "respectfully", before the court delivers its verdict on the Governor granting permission to prosecute him in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment issue. The former Chief Minister claimed that Siddaramaiah would face a situation to resign after the court verdict. "After the court verdict, a situation will come for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to resign one hundred per cent. I advise him to respectfully resign before the court verdict comes. As all the scams he is involved in are proved, there is no chance for him to escape. Let's see what happens," Yediyurappa said. —*PTI*

BS Yediyurappa **PHOTO: PTI**

BESCOM ISSUES SAFETY RULES FOR GANESHA FESTIVAL

BENGALURU, 4 SEPT

BESCOM, Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited, has issued new guidelines for Ganesh Chaturthi festival organisers to ensure safety and proper electricity usage during the celebrations.

Organisers have been advised to contact their local sub-divisional officers to arrange temporary electricity connections for the festival.

To ensure safety, BESCOM has outlined several measures: "When setting up pandals, serial lights, and other decorations, handle electrical wires with care.

Make sure the wiring for serial lights is properly insulated. Avoid contact with electric poles when installing lights. Do not attach 'shamiyanas,' tents, or other items to electrical wires, poles, or transformer stations. Be cautious of overhead power lines during processions.

Do not try to lift power lines and inform Sub-Divisional Officers about the procession route in advance for assistance. Report any live wires or electrical sparks immediately by calling the 1912 helpline. Mark 'Danger Zones' where electrical equipment is installed for the Ganesh pandal."

Further BESCOM said, to obtain a temporary power connection, organisers must first secure a no objection letter from various authorities, including the BBMP, BDA, Grama Panchayat, and the local police station. Following this, an Assistant Executive Engineer or Assistant Engineer will inspect the site before granting permission, an official press release added.

—*Salar News*

'WHY THE DELAY?'

HC pushes for swift conclusion of Wildlife Protection Act cases

BENGALURU, 4 SEPT

Karnataka High Court has emphasised the need for expeditious trials in cases under the Wildlife Protection Act, expressing concern over lengthy delays in bringing offenders to justice.

A single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna made this observation while rejecting a petition by Abdul Rehman and others, who faced charges for killing a spotted deer in the Bandipur forest in 2008.

Despite 16 years having passed, the trial against the accused is still ongoing.

The court criticised the prolonged proceedings, stating: "Why such a long time? Why do you take 16 years to conclude a forest offence? This is not correct if you book under the Forest Act for killing a deer in 2008 and it is still being tried in 2024. What is this?"

The bench attributed the delay to the accused evading court appearances, leading to repeated adjournments.

Rehman and his co-accused had sought quashing of the proceedings, arguing that they faced "double jeopardy", as a separate case related to the illegal possession of meat and unlicensed arms was filed against them in Kerala.

The court dismissed this argument, noting that the deer was killed in Karnataka, where the Wildlife Protection Act applies. The case in Kerala, involving the seizure of 35 kg of deer meat and weapons, falls under the Arms Act.

The bench refused to grant any relief to the petitioners, citing their repeated attempts to evade trial, and ordered the lower court to conclude the case within 12 weeks. —*PTI*

HC ordered to conclude the case within 12 weeks **PHOTO: ANI**

HDK pitches for raising steel import duties by 10-12%

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

Union Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said he will try to convince the Finance Ministry to raise duties on steel imports to 10-12 per cent from the current 7.5 per cent.

The minister expressed concerns on the manner in which China was dumping steel into India, and said several players from the steel industry visited him in the last two months and discussed the problems they were facing in the growth of the steel industry.

"The problem which you are facing from China for that I will try to convince... the finance ministry to look at (raising the duty on steel imports) from 7.5 per cent tax to 10-12 per cent tax," he said while speaking at the Fifth Steel Conclave organised by the Indian Steel Association.

'Govt to clear FAME 3 scheme in 1-2 months'

The government is expected to finalise the third phase of its flagship electric mobility adoption scheme FAME in a month or two, Kumaraswamy said.

The second phase of FAME was rolled out in 2019 with an initial outlay of Rs 10,000 crore for three years. It was later extended up to March 2024 with an additional outlay of Rs 1,500 crore.

The initial target of the scheme was to support 10 lakh electric two-wheelers, 5 lakh electric three-wheelers, 55,000 passenger cars, and 7,000 electric buses. —*PTI*

HD Kumaraswamy **PHOTO: PTI**

ITPL TO GET DIRECT WALKWAY SOON: BMRCL

BENGALURU, 4 SEPT

Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has signed an agreement with Information Technology Park Limited (ITPL) to construct a direct walkway connecting Pattanduru Agrahara Metro Station to the ITPL campus. The walkway will provide seamless access from the metro station's concourse level to the ITPL premises, Z.

The agreement, valid for 30 years, outlines that BMRCL will undertake the construction of the access infrastructure, while ITPL will bear the cost, contributing Rs 10 crore towards the project. This initiative is expected to immediately benefit 50,000 ITPL employees, with the number rising to 60,000 by 2025.

The Walkway Agreement was signed by Kalpana Kataria, IRS, Executive Director (C&AM) of BMRCL, and Ravi Bhushan Vadhavkar, City Head of ITPL. —*Salar News*

PHOTO: PTI

EC enforces exit poll ban during J&K Assembly polls

SRINAGAR, 4 SEPT

The Election Commission (EC) has prohibited the release of exit polls by media outlets or in any other manner during the Assembly elections-2024 for Jammu and Kashmir under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, an official spokesman said. It is a routine exercise by the EC during elections to ensure a level playing field. "The exit poll ban on election results, according to the notification, starts from the beginning of hours fixed for the voting on the first day of poll and continues till half an hour after the closing of the voting in J&K," the spokesman said. The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in three phases. *—PTI*

Mukhtar Ansari's son booked under Gangsters Act

BANDA, 4 SEPT

Five people, including Mukhtar Ansari's MLA son Abbas Ansari, have been booked under the Gangsters Act, police on Wednesday said. Besides the lawmaker, his driver Niaz Ansari, jail canteen manager Navneet Sachan, Varanasi accountant Shahbaz Alam Khan, and local SP leader Faraz Khan have been named in the FIR lodged at Karvi Police Station on Tuesday, Chitrakoot Superintendent of Police (SP) Arun Kumar Singh told PTI. The five have been accused of running an extortion racket and intimidating people while Ansari was lodged in Chitrakoot's Ragauli jail. Ansari is at present lodged in Kasganj jail and the other four are out on bail, the SP said. The four had earlier been jailed on the charge of allowing Abbas and his wife Nikhat Ansari to meet each other in prison. *—PTI*

Case against BJP MLA in Thane over hate speech

THANE, 4 SEPT

Police in Maharashtra's Thane district have registered a case against BJP MLA Nitesh Rane over his recent speeches in which he allegedly threatened to hit Muslims by "entering mosques", an official said on Wednesday. Rane addressed two public meetings in Shrirampur and Topkhana areas in Ahmednagar district on 1 September in support of Hindu seer Mahant Ramgiri Maharaj, who was in the news last month for allegedly making derogatory remarks about Islam and Prophet Muhammad. The MLA warned there would be repercussions if the Maharaj was harmed. In a viral video, he can be heard, "We will enter your mosques and hit you one by one. Keep this in mind." *—PTI*

RaGa donates one month salary to Wayanad

WAYANAD, 4 SEPT

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi has donated his one month's salary -- Rs 2.3 lakh -- to the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) towards rehabilitation activities for the victims of the Wayanad landslides, the party's state unit said on Wednesday. KPCC General Secretary M Liju, in a statement, said that the donation was made to the funds being collected by the Congress' state unit as part of Gandhi's announcement that the party will build and provide 100 houses to the people of Wayanad who lost their loved ones in the landslides of 30 July. As part of the fundraising, a mobile app -- 'Stand with Wayand - INC -- has been created, the statement said. It also said that Congress MP K Sudhakaran was assessing the progress of the Wayanad rehabilitation work. *—PTI*

67 candidates in BJP's 1st list for Haryana, CM fielded from Ladwa

BJP drops 9 MLAs including sitting minister

DOORU, 4 SEPT

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday released its first list of 67 candidates for the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections.

According to the list, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will contest from the Ladwa constituency.

Other prominent leaders included in the first list are Gian Chand Gupta, former state home minister Anil Vij, Kanwar Pal Gurjar, Sunita Duggal, Bhavya Bishnoi, and Tejpal Tanwar.

Gian Chand Gupta will contest from Panchkula, Anil Vij from Ambala Cantt, Kanwar Pal Gurjar from Jagadhri, Sunita Duggal from Ratia, Bhavya Bishnoi from Adampur, and Tejpal Tanwar from Sohna. On Tuesday, a key meeting was held to discuss the candidates at former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's residence in Delhi.

The meeting was attended by BJP Haryana Election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan, election co-in-charge Biplab Dev, state in-charge Satish Punia, and state co-in-charge Surender Nagar, among others.

On 2 September, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president JP Nadda, BJP Haryana election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan, election co-in-charge Biplab Dev, state in-charge Satish Punia, state co-in-charge Surender Nagar, and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar met and held talks regarding the candidates.

The voting for the 90-member legislative assembly in Haryana will be held on 5 October.

Meanwhile, BJP has dropped nine MLAs including a sitting minister.

On 31 August, the Election Commission of India revised the polling date elections from 1 to 5 October, and moved the counting of votes for both the Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana from 4 to 8 October.

—PTI

BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini took charge as Haryana Chief Minister on 12 March **PHOTO: PTI**

- On 31 August, the Election Commission of India revised the polling date elections from 1 to 5 October and moved the counting for J&K and Haryana from 4 to 8 October

Ex-militants campaigning in J&K: Ram Madhav

SRINAGAR, 4 SEPT

BJP National General Secretary Ram Madhav on Wednesday accused the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party of taking support from ex-militants for the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, and said the two parties want to take the Union territory back to its "trouble-filled days".

Referring to the Abdullahs and Muftis, Madhav, who is the party's in-charge for J&K, said the two families need to be shown the door.

"I have information that ex-militants are openly campaigning for the candidates of the NC and PDP. The people will have to defeat the parties who want to take J-K back to its bad days and support new leadership which wants peace and progress," Madhav told reporters here. He was accompanying the party's candidate from Lal Chowk Assembly constituency Aijaz Hussain during filing of nominations.

Referring to the elections manifestos released by the NC and the PDP which promise restoration of Article 370 and statehood, resolution of Kashmir issue, and talks with Pakistan, Madhav said the two regional parties want to take J&K back to its old, trouble-filled days. "A good number of youth are coming forward and they should be supported. This state was under the grip of two families, those two families need to be shown the door. This state needs to be rid of those families," he said, referring to the families of NC president Farooq Abdullah and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti.

—PTI

Prime Minister of Singapore Lawrence Wong greets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Singapore on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

In Singapore, Modi eyes investments

SINGAPORE, 4 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday arrived here for a two-day visit aimed at boosting India-Singapore friendship, deepening 'strategic partnership' and attracting investment from the Southeast Asian country.

During his visit at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong, he will connect with three generations of Singapore's leadership, officials in New Delhi said.

"Landed in Singapore. Looking forward to the various meetings aimed at boosting the India-Singapore friendship. India's reforms and the talent of our Yuva Shakti makes our nation an ideal investment destination. We also look forward to closer cultural ties," Modi posted on X soon after his arrival for his fifth official trip to Singapore.

Modi flew to Singapore after wrapping his visit to Brunei, the first bilateral visit there by an Indian prime minister.

He will receive an official welcome at the Parliament House on Thursday and call on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

Ahead of his departure from New Delhi, Modi had posted on X: "I look forward to my discussions to deepen our Strategic Partnership with Singapore, particularly in new and emerging areas of advanced manufacturing, digitalisation, and sustainable development."

This visit will build synergies in semiconductor ecosystems of Singapore and India. Both PMs will visit a semiconductor manufacturing facility, officials said.

They said MoUs will be signed for cooperation in manpower skilling in the semiconductor sector.

From skilling centres to training and recruitment by Singapore firms, this will help India's youth with better skills and opportunities, officials added. *—PTI*

India supports policy of growth: Modi

Bandar Seri Begawan, 4 Sept

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India supports a "policy of development, and not expansionism", a remark that appeared directed at China as he wrapped up a bilateral visit to Brunei, where the two countries also reiterated their commitment to "freedom of navigation" in the region. The talks covered a range of topics including defence, trade & investment, food security, education, energy, space technology, health, capacity building, culture as well as people-to-people exchanges. They agreed to explore and pursue collaboration in areas such as ICT, fintech, cyber security, new and emerging technologies and renewable energy. *—PTI*

Pact signed with 2 insurgent grps in Tripura

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

The government is committed for all-round development of the northeastern region, especially tribals, while preserving their culture, language and identity, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

He also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only bridged the gap between the Northeast and Delhi by connecting them through roads, railways and flights, but has also bridged the gap between hearts.

Shah was addressing an event where a peace agreement was signed between the central and Tripura governments and two insurgent groups of the state here at North block aiming to end violence and bring peace in the northeastern state.

Shah said a new milestone is set today in Tripura's ongoing journey towards peace and progress with the signing of the agreement.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the state government were also present during the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement with the representatives of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF).

The NLFT and the ATTF have agreed to end a 35-year-long conflict and return to the mainstream, renouncing violence and committing to building a prosperous and developed Tripura, reposing their trust in the Modi government, Shah said. *—PTI*

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

- Shah said a new milestone is set today in Tripura's ongoing journey towards peace and progress with the signing of the agreement

'NOT IN A FEUDAL ERA'

Dhami faces SC's wrath over appointment

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

Heads of governments cannot be expected to be "old days' kings" and we are not in a "feudal era", the Supreme Court said on Wednesday, questioning Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami for appointing an Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer as the Director of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve, disregarding the opinions of the state's forest minister and others.

However, the state government told a bench headed by Justice BR Gavai that the order posting the IFS officer as the director of the tiger reserve was withdrawn on 3 September. The bench, also comprising Justices PK Mishra and KV Viswanathan, was hearing a matter concerning the appointment of IFS officer Rahul, a former director of the Corbett Tiger Reserve, as the director of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve.

Bench also referred to a newspaper report, which said Uttarakhand's forest minister and chief secretary had objected to the appointment of the officer. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Akhilesh doesn't have heart for bulldozer: Yogi

LUCKNOW, 4 SEPT

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday retorted sharply to Akhilesh Yadav's warning that he will after 2027 order all "bulldozers" to Gorakhpur – the home district of Yogi-- saying not everyone has the heart to handle a bulldozer.

Adityanath made the remark responding to the Samajwadi Party chief's Tuesday comment on bulldozer, the machine which has become emblematic of his style of governance.

"As soon as the Samajwadi government is formed in 2027, the bulldozers of the entire state will head towards Gorakhpur," Yadav had said.

Adityanath said only those with a "bulldozer-like capability" can operate it. *—PTI*

WB doctors continue 'ceasework' in protest against rape-murder case

KOLKATA, 4 SEPT

The 'cease work' by junior doctors at state-run hospitals in West Bengal continued on Wednesday to protest against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee medic at RG Kar hospital here last month.

Health services remained crippled at most state-run medical facilities due to the 'ceasework', which has been underway for over three weeks now. Meanwhile, lawyers formed human chains outside the Calcutta High Court and Bankshall Court seeking justice. The former principal of Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh has moved the Supreme Court, challenging the Calcutta High Court order dismissing his plea to be added as a party to a petition alleging financial irregularities at the institute. Meanwhile, Janata Dal (United) leader KC Tyagi suggested castration as a punishment for rapists amid a fierce debate in the country over sexual assaults against women. NCP (SP) President Sharad Pawar, on the other hand, made a pitch for replicating in Maharashtra the bill passed by West Bengal assembly that seeks capital punishment for rape convicts.

In another incident, a female resident doctor of Government Medical College has alleged that she was molested by an unidentified man when she was heading towards her hostel after duty at the adjacent Guru Nanak Dev Hospital. *—PTI*

Students protest against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

'AFRAID TO STAY INDOORS'

Manipuris on edge after drone attacks

IMPHAL, 4 SEPT

A section of villagers of Senjam Chirang in Manipur have been forced to abandon their homes and seek refuge in a nearby community hall after bombs dropped from a drone injured three members of a local resident's family two days ago.

The first bomb smashed through the roof of a 65-year-old farmer's house, injuring his daughter. Minutes later, another bomb fell from the sky and injured him and his son. A resident said the explosive that broke the roof of his house was the second of the three bombs that were dropped from a drone on Monday evening in his house.

The first one damaged his cowshed, which was empty, and the third explosive injured him and his son who took shelter under a tree after fleeing home in Imphal West district. Drones are a new technology added recently to the weapons used in the violence between the two large ethnic groups – Meitei and Kuki – in the northeastern state, which left over 200 people dead since May last year.

The use of the remote-controlled small flying device as a weapon is first noticed in Manipur on Sunday in Koutruk village in Imphal West district. Chief Minister N Biren Singh has described the dropping of bombs on the civilian population and security forces using drones as an act of terrorism.

The state government has imposed restrictions on the import of drones or their components. *—PTI*

The use of the remote-controlled small flying device as a weapon was first noticed in Manipur on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Shivaji statue should have been made of stainless steel: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

Union minister Nitin Gadkari has said if stainless steel had been used for construction of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue at Rajkot fort in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district, it would not have collapsed.

Gadkari also pitched for use of rust-resistant products in coastal areas. The collapse of the statue has triggered a political row ahead of Maharashtra Assembly. Gadkari said he has been pressing for the last three years that stainless steel should be used in the construction of bridges built close to sea. Recalling his days as PWD minister of Maharashtra, he said he was constructing 55 flyovers in Mumbai and one person fooled him. "He put some powder coating on iron rods and said those were rust-proof. But there was rusting. I believe that stainless steel should be used within 30 km of sea. The statue was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the fort in Malvan tehsil on Navy Day, 4 December, last year.

7 teams at work to trace sculptor

Police in Sindhudurg district have pressed more than seven teams to track down sculptor and contractor Jaydeep Apte, booked over the collapse of 35-foot Chhatrapati Shivaji

Teams of Sindhudurg police are searching for him at places, including Mumbai, Thane, Sindhudurg and Kolhapur. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

5 Bangladeshi infiltrators arrested in Assam

GUWAHATI, 4 SEPT

Five Bangladesh nationals, including four women, were apprehended and pushed back from Assam's Karimganj district on Wednesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. They were nabbed by the Assam police while trying to enter Karimganj from neighbouring Tripura. "Our @assampolice personnel are maintaining constant vigil along the Indo-Bangladesh border and alert to thwart infiltration attempts," the chief minister posted on 'X'. "The following Bangladeshi nationals were apprehended and pushed back in the wee hours- Afroja Jahirul Sardar, Tumpa Haque, Ridoy Sk, Akhi Sk and Lakhipur Akhtar," he added. *—PTI*

1 dies while erecting Ganesha pandal in Vadodara

VADODARA, 4 SEPT

One person died and seven others suffered injuries after they were electrocuted while trying to erect a Ganesha pandal at Dabka village in Gujarat's Vadodara district, police said on Wednesday. Several villagers were busy setting up a pandal, for the upcoming Lord Ganesh festival, near a temple in the village under Padra taluka around 11.45 pm on Tuesday when the incident occurred, an official from Vadu police station said. One of them, Prakash Jadhav, died on the spot after the iron rod he was holding along with others touched a high-tension electric wire running overhead. All seven injured persons were rushed to a nearby hospital where they are undergoing treatment, he added.*—PTI*

Sec 144 imposed near Odisha college after clashes

BHADRAK, 4 SEPT

Authorities of Bhadrak district administration in Odisha on Wednesday clamped prohibitory orders in nearby areas of a college at Chandbali, following a police report about possible clashes among supporters of the BJP and BJD, officials said. The move is aimed at maintaining law and order in Chandbali on the occasion of the foundation day of Motta Plus-III College, they said. Odisha BJD youth president Prince Rakesh and some other party activists had demonstrated on the college campus on Tuesday, police said. Bhadrak Sub-Collector Manoja Patra promulgated the prohibitory orders under different sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in a one-km radius of the college, including Kheranga Bazar, Nalgonda Bazar, Digachia market and Motto market from 7am of Wednesday till 7am on Thursday. *—PTI*

Air India flight receives hoax bomb threat

VISAKHAPATNAM, 4 SEPT

An Air India flight going from New Delhi to Visakhapatnam received a bomb threat Tuesday late night, but it was found to be a hoax after a thorough scrutiny on landing in the port city, said an official. Visakhapatnam Airport Director S Raja Reddy said the Delhi Police received the bomb threat call and alerted the airline and the Visakhapatnam airport. "It (flight) landed safely and on thoroughly checking the flight, it was found to be a false call," Reddy told PTI, adding that there were 107 passengers on the Vizag-bound flight. After deboarding passengers from the aircraft and checking it, that nothing suspicious was found, the director noted. Meanwhile, boarding on the return flight to Delhi has begun and it is scheduled to leave around 12.30am, Reddy added. *—PTI*

He was not alone, why was no one else hurt: Aryan's dad

Police says Haryana shooting is a case of misunderstanding

FARIDABAD, 4 SEPT

The father of teenager Aryan Mishra, who was shot dead allegedly by cow vigilantes in a car chase in Faridabad, is restless with many questions about the death, such as why none of the other passengers in the vehicle were hurt in the attack.

Aryan Mishra, 19, was shot dead on a highway around midnight on 23 August. Five people – Saurabh, Anil Kaushik, Varun, Krishna and Adesh – who allegedly chased him and opened fire were arrested on 28 August.

Though he did not make an explicit accusation, Siyanand Mishra said the family of his landlord, who was with his son in the car that night, may have something more to say on the matter.

"I am satisfied with the arrest of the five men as there is nothing left for me in Faridabad. I want to return to my native place. But there are many questions which can only be answered by my landlord's family.

My son was taken towards Palwal in a car by Sujata Gulati and his sons Harshit and Shanky Gulati.

"Shanky was involved in a case of attempted murder and might have some dispute with someone," he said.

Mishra also asked if his son was indeed shot by cow vigilantes, who gave them the right to do that.

According to police sources, the accused during interrogation claimed that on the night of 23 August, they had

Shame on us. Aryan (class 12th student). Shot and killed by cow vigilantes in Haryana mistaking him to be a 'cow transporter'! Cause: Encouraging the agenda of hate. Will our PM, our Vice-President, our Home Minister speak up!

- Kapil Sibal, Rajya Sabha MP

received information that some suspected cattle smugglers driving two SUVs were doing recce in the city.

They mistook Aryan, and his friends, Shanky and Harshit, for cattle smugglers and followed their car for about 30 kilometres near the Gadhpuri Toll on the Delhi-Agra National Highway, police sources said.

When they asked the boy and his friends to stop their car, the driver started speeding, following which they opened fire and Mishra was killed on the spot near the Gadhpuri toll in Palwal.

Police arrested five men on 28 August and remanded them to police custody for two days, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime) Aman Yadav said in a statement on Tuesday.

—PTI

SETBACK FOR KANGANA

'Emergency' to miss release as HC denies relief

MUMBAI, 4 SEPT

Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency' film will miss the 6 September scheduled release date, with the Bombay High Court on Wednesday refusing to grant any urgent relief by directing the censor board to certify the movie immediately.

A division bench of Justices BP Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla said it cannot grant any urgent relief at this stage in the wake of the directive issued by the Madhya Pradesh HC directing the censor board to consider objections to the movie before certifying it.

The bench said if not for the Madhya Pradesh HC it would have directed the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to issue certificate to the movie "today" itself.

Scheduled for release on 6 September, the biographical drama is caught up in a controversy after Sikh organisations, including the Shiromani Akali Dal, objected, accusing it of misrepresenting the community and getting historical facts wrong.

Kangana Ranaut **PHOTO: PTI**

The film's producer Zee Entertainment Enterprises had moved the Bombay High Court seeking a direction to the CBFC to issue certificate for the film 'Emergency', helmed by actor-MP Kangana Ranaut.

—PTI

Urban dvpt worsened Gujarat floods, says study

AHMEDABAD, 4 SEPT

An analysis of recent flooding in parts of Gujarat showed that it was caused by severe weather conditions and exacerbated by extensive urban development, altered elevations and compromised drainage patterns, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IIT-GN) have said.

Parts of Gujarat witnessed flooding due to heavy rains between 20 and 29 August.

15 out of the 33 districts in the state recorded three-day rainfall totals exceeding their 10-year return period - a statistical measure indicating the average interval between such intense events - with Jamnagar, Morbi, Devbhumi Dwarka, and Rajkot experiencing levels above their 50-year thresholds, the analysis showed. The recurrence of "unusual weather events along India's western coast", such as the one witnessed last week, highlights the urgent need to reassess urban planning.

Maharashtra

At least ten people from Marathwada region of Maharashtra pounded by heavy rains lost their lives over the last three days, as per primary assessment by authorities. The rainfall damaged crops on nearly 11.67 lakh hectares of land. *— PTI*

Andhra gives ₹5 lakh to flood victims

Vijayawada, 4 Sept

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday provided an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of 20 people who perished in rain-related incidents in the state, even as rescue and relief operations continued in parts of Vijayawada. He directed officials to distribute essential items like water, biscuits, fruits and milk. Celebrities including Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun and Mahesh Babu, have come forward to support flood relief efforts. *—PTI*

1 dead as rain pounds Nagaland

Kohima, 4 Sept

One person died after heavy rainfall damaged houses and major portions of National Highway-29 in Nagaland's Chumoukedima district, officials said on Wednesday. The roadside houses were damaged in flashfloods caused by torrential rain.

India biggest climate financier in the world

New Delhi, 4 Sept

India contributed USD 1.28 billion in climate finance through multilateral development banks (MDBs) in 2022 according to a new analysis. The report however reveals that only 12 developed countries provided their fair share of international climate finance in 2022.

MURMU IN M'RASHTRA

President Droupadi Murmu and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde pay tribute to a statue of lord Buddha during inauguration of Buddha Vihar accompanied with a meditation centre, in Udgir on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

PIL in SC seeks halt of arms, military equipment export to Israel

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre to cancel licences and not to grant new ones to Indian firms exporting arms and other military equipments to Israel, which is fighting a war in Gaza.

The PIL, filed through lawyer Prashant Bhushan, has made the Union Ministry of defence a party, and said, "India is bound by various international laws and treaties that obligate India not to supply military weapons to States guilty of war crimes, as any export could be used in serious violations of international humanitarian law".

The plea said the supply of military equipments to Israel by companies, including a public sector enterprise, under the MoD violates India's obligations under international law coupled with Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 26 January ordered measures against Israel for violations in the Gaza Strip of obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The plea also referred to a detailed judgement of 19 July of the ICJ on the legal consequences, arising from the policies and practices of Israel in Palestinian territory. The PIL said India is under an obligation to interpret domestic law in the light of the obligations under the conventions and treaties that it has both signed and ratified. *—PTI*

6-year-old Delhi boy sexually assaulted by neighbour

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

A six-year-old boy was allegedly sexually assaulted by his 35-year-old neighbour in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri area, officials said on Wednesday.

The matter came to the fore on Tuesday when the boy revealed that he was touched in an appropriate manner by the neighbour on Sunday, they said. A case was registered under the Protection of children from of sexual offences Act and the accused Balram Dass alias Kalu was arrested on Tuesday night.

Senior officers reached the spot and pacified the people by assuring strict action against the accused.

Giving details of the case, a police officer said the family of the boy had approached the

PHOTO: PTI

local police stating that the six-year-old was missing on 1 September.However, the boy was traced by his family after a few hours and taken to the police station.

The family had not alleged any sexual assault till Monday, the police said in a statement.

When he was taken before the Child Welfare Committee, he alleged that the accused inappropriately touched him, it added. *—PTI*

Bhopal girl students destroy fans, windows to protest harsh punishments

BHOPAL, 4 SEPT

Students of a government-run higher secondary school for girls in Bhopal on Wednesday went on a rampage and damaged furniture and other property, alleging harsh punishment by the woman administrator, leading to her removal from the post by authorities.

Viral videos showed students damaging classroom furniture in the Government Sarojini Naidu Girls Higher Secondary School, pulling ceiling fan blades, breaking electronic gadgets, and smashing windows and door glasses.

Students claimed they were subjected to disproportionate punishment for arriving late in the school.

"Merely because we got late by 10-15 minutes, the school administration forced us to remove grass from the ground and made us stand in the Sun," a student claimed in a viral video. Some collapsed because of the punishment, she said.

Students protest against disciplinary and irregularities in Bhopal's school, on Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

—PTI

Cops to summon 4 creditors in Ex-Atlas boss' death

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

The Delhi Police has filed an FIR of abetment of suicide in the alleged suicide of 65-year-old former president of Atlas Cycles Salil Kapoor, an officer said on Wednesday.

Kapoor was found dead Tuesday with a bullet injury to his head on the ground floor of his three-storey bungalow on the Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Road .

He had left behind a suicide note in which he had named four people of harassing him "mentally and physically," police said.

The officer said all four, who are stated to be from Haryana, will be summoned to join the probe soon. Kapoor said he was "taking his life on his own, " in his note. *—PTI*

FOR HABITAT LOSS

'UP wolves attacking humans for revenge'

BAHRAICH, 4 SEPT

As Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich grapples with wolf terror, an expert has said the series of attacks on the residents of Mehsi tehsil might be due to wolves "seeking revenge" for possible habitat loss or killing of their cubs.

Wolf attacks on humans, including children, have been taking place in Bahraich since March but they saw a spike from 17 July onwards during the rainy season.

Till 2 September, eight people, including seven children, have died in these attacks while about 36, including women, children and elderly, have been injured.

PHOTO:PTI

Gyan Prakash Singh, a retired officer of the Indian Forest Service (IFS) and a former forest officer at Katarniaghat Wildlife Division of Bahraich district, said wolves, unlike other predatory animals, have a tendency to seek revenge. Around 25 years ago, more than 50 children were killed by wolves near the Sai river in Jaunpur and Pratapgarh districts he said. It was found that some children had killed two wolf cubs in a den. Singh said a similar pattern has emerged in Bahraich as in January and February, two wolf cubs were crushed under the wheels of a tractor. As the furious wolves began attacking local residents, several of them were caught and released in Chakia forest, around 40km away.

"Perhaps a mistake was made here. Chakia forest is not a natural habitat for wolves. It is likely that the same wolves have returned and are carrying out these attacks to seek revenge," he said. *—PTI*

9 teams deployed

A team of nine shooters has been deployed in Bahraich forest here to shoot a man-eating wolf at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's order, an officer on Wednesday said According to sources, The team's main task is to identify the man-eating wolf and transfer it to a zoo or shoot it. *—PTI*

2 bodies found after Coast Guard chopper crash

PORBANDAR, 4 SEPT

Of the three crew members who went missing after an Indian Coast Guard (ICG) helicopter crashed into the Arabian Sea off Gujarat coast, the bodies of its pilot and a diver have been recovered while search for the third one is still on, officials said on Wednesday.

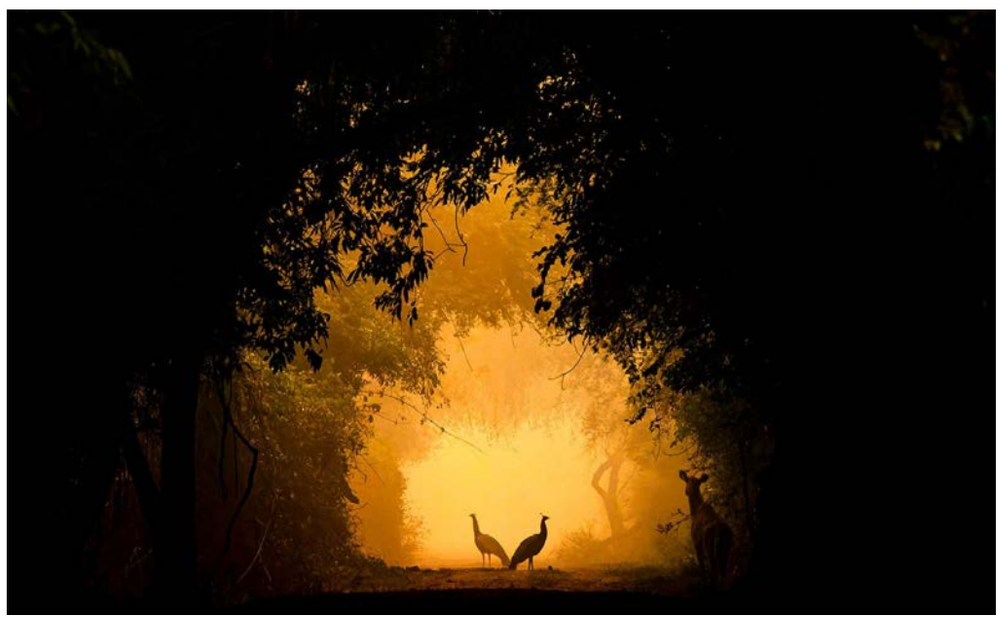
The bodies of Commandant Vipin Babu and diver Karan Singh were recovered on Tuesday night while search is still on to trace another pilot, Rakesh Rana, said Coast Guard spokesperson, Amit Uniyal.

"Of the total four crew members on board the ICG's advanced light helicopter (ALH), diver Gautam Kumar was rescued soon after the incident while a search was on for three others - one pilot and two divers. On Tuesday night, the bodies of pilot Vipin Babu and diver Karan Singh were recovered," he said.

"Another pilot, Rakesh Rana, is still missing. We have deployed four ships and an aircraft to locate him. Wreckage of the helicopter has been found," he added. The incident occurred on Monday night after the ICG launched an operation around 11pm to evacuate an injured crew member on board a tanker which was sailing close to Porbandar. Navi Bandar police station of Porbandar filed an accidental death report after the recovery of two dead bodies. *—PTI*

WILDLIFE PIC OF THE YEAR

A chance encounter with two peahens on a morning stroll through Keoladev National Park in Bharatpur put nine-year-old Shreyovi Mehta in the annals of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award. The 60th edition of the prestigious award by Natural History Museum named her as the runner-up in the '10 Years and Under' category. Titled 'In the Spotlight', Mehta's photo showed a pair of peahens, silhouetted under a canopy of trees at Keoladeo. The image was one of the 60,000 photographs by participants of all ages and experience levels from 117 countries and territories ***PHOTO: NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM***



India's archaic labour laws let firms exploit workers

The laws governing the rights of Indian workers fail to address modern labour practices ***PHOTO: PIXABAY***

It's 7.30 am and like most days Rohan's workday is starting. Working for a British multinational, throughout the day he is on phone calls with clients and stakeholders based across time zones. There are short breaks between calls, but his day only ends at 9.30 pm — a gruelling 14 hours later.

In a different city at 7.30 am the first thing Aditi does upon waking up is check her work emails. Her work officially starts at 9 am and will go on to 11 pm. Every day, five days a week. Aditi works for a major US consulting firm.

Aditi says the long workdays leave her "tired and anxious." She ends up sleeping late trying to find some personal time.

"I can't imagine how people are managing marriages, kids, elder care along with long working hours," she said.

Aditi and Rohan both have one thing in common — for their long hours working for major multinational corporations (MNCs), neither of them gets paid for the extra hours.

Rohan and Aditi's experiences are not isolated cases and highlight a broader pattern of exploitative workplace practices in India.

Amit K has spent 17 years working for a company headquartered in London, currently overseeing a team with members based in both India and the Philippines.

He says, despite working on the same projects, the Filipino employees receive overtime pay, "while India-based employees do not receive any extra compensation, regardless of the number of hours worked."

MNCs circumvent law on technicality

In India, many white-collar private sector employees say they regularly work up to 12-14 hours a day.

According to the Factories Act of 1948, which dictates overtime rules in India, if someone works for more than 8-9 hours a day, or 48 hours a week, they are entitled to double payment for the extra hours. But the language of the act specifies that this is for "factory workers" or "workers."

Since Rohan and Aditi are not "factory workers" as per the legal definition, the overtime compensation doesn't apply to them.

Mahesh Godbole, who started out as a human resource (HR) professional almost 40 years ago, said, "In office environments, companies circumvent overtime laws by designating employees as 'officers' or 'executives,' categories to which overtime laws for 'workers' do not apply, creating a legal grey area."

For this story, DW reached out to Meta, Apple, Amazon, Google, Ola Consumer and KPMG, among other companies, asking about their overtime policies in India, but none of them responded to the queries.

Laws not in keeping with the times

The shift to remote work has also blurred the lines between professional and personal time in India, making it harder for MNC employees to disconnect from work.

"For the companies, the idea of work-life balance is a marketing gimmick," said Isha who has been working for an Indian multinational conglomerate for five years and, in her words, "has put in the never-ending hours."

"We are living in the post-pandemic world now where if you are working from home your managers expect you to be available at all times."

This is another example of how the laws governing the rights of Indian workers — drawn up 76 years ago — fail to address modern labour practices.

And successive governments have lacked the political will to address the issue.

Can the laws be challenged?

On the question of whether MNC workers can petition the court for overtime pay, Suresh Chandra Srivastava, a lawyer and professor of labour law, says there has been no direct precedence. He mentions a case where the Supreme Court of India ruled last year that government employees are not entitled to claim double overtime allowance under the Factories Act.

The court clarified that the act specifically applies to workers in factories, not government employees, who are overseen by different rules and regulations. As a result, the demand for double overtime pay by government employees was rejected.

This apex court ruling illustrates the limitations of current labour laws. Being in the same legal grey area, MNC workers will run into the same hurdle as the government employees mentioned earlier.

But Sophy KJ, associate professor of law and director of the Center for Labor Law Research and Advocacy at the National Law University in Delhi, referred to a 2022 ruling by a labour court in the southern city of Chennai.

The court ruled that an IT analyst could be classified as a "workman" under the Industrial Disputes Act, rejecting an Indian software MNC's claim that the employee did not qualify because of his supervisory role.

From economic iberalisation to now

Experts look at the years following India's economic liberalization in 1991, when a booming private sector created a demand for labour. However, this growth came with lax government oversight, allowing private companies to exploit loopholes in archaic laws, they say.

Sophy KJ pointed out that, historically, trade unions safeguarded against the exploitation of labor. But post-liberalisation practices like "contractualisation and outsourcing became the norm," she said.

Contract workers could not form or join unions without the immediate threat of losing their jobs, unlike regular workers.

"This shift has led to a weakening of trade unionization since the 1990s," she underlined.

"In some cases, small, independent unions have emerged in the private sector, but without support from larger, established unions, these smaller unions are often bought out by employers and rendered ineffective." *—DW News*

SALAR سالار

Mobile phones not linked to brain cancer: WHO study

A systematic review into the potential health effects from radio wave exposure has shown mobile phones are not linked to brain cancer. The review was commissioned by the World Health Organisation and is published in the journal Environment International.

Mobile phones are often held against the head during use. And they emit radio waves, a type of non-ionising radiation. These two factors are largely why the idea mobile phones might cause brain cancer emerged in the first place.

The possibility that mobile phones might cause cancer has been a long-standing concern. Mobile phones – and wireless tech more broadly – are a major part of our daily lives. So it's been vital for science to address the safety of radio wave exposure from these devices.

Over the years, the scientific consensus has remained strong – there's no association between mobile phone radio waves and brain cancer, or health more generally.

Radiation as a possible carcinogen

Despite the consensus, occasional research studies have been published that suggested the possibility of harm.

In 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified radio wave exposure as a possible carcinogen to humans. The meaning of this classification was largely misunderstood and led to some increase in concern.

IARC is part of the World Health Organisation. Its classification of radio waves as a possible carcinogen was largely based on limited evidence from human observational studies. Also known as epidemiological studies, they observe the rate of disease and how it may be caused in human populations.

Observational studies are the best tool researchers have to investigate long-term health effects in humans, but the results can often be biased.

The IARC classification relied on previous observational studies where people with brain cancer reported they used a mobile phone more than they actually did. One example of this is known as the INTERPHONE study.

This new systematic review of human observational studies is based on a much larger data set compared to what the IARC examined in 2011.

It includes more recent and more comprehensive studies. This means we can now be more confident that exposure to radio waves from mobile phones or wireless technologies is not associated with an increased risk of brain cancer.

No association

The new review forms part of a series of systematic reviews commissioned by the World Health Organisation to look more closely at possible health effects associated with exposure to radio waves.

This systematic review provides the strongest evidence to date that radio waves from wireless technologies are not a hazard to human health.

It is the most comprehensive review on this topic – it considered more than 5,000 studies, of which 63, published between 1994 and 2022, were included in the final analysis. The main reason studies were excluded was that they were not actually relevant; this is very normal with search results from systematic reviews.

No association between mobile phone use and brain cancer, or any other head or neck cancer, was found.

There was also no association with cancer if a person used a mobile phone for ten or more years (prolonged use). How often they used it – either based on the number of calls or the time spent on the phone – also didn't make a difference.

Importantly, these findings align with previous research. It shows that, although the use of wireless technologies has massively increased in the past few decades, there has been no rise in the incidence of brain cancers.

A good thing

Overall, the results are very reassuring. They mean that our national and international safety limits are protective. Mobile phones emit low-level radio waves below these safety limits, and there is no evidence exposure to these has an impact on human health.

Despite this, it is important that research continues. Technology is developing at a rapid pace. With this development comes the use of radio waves in different ways using different frequencies.

It is therefore essential that science continues to ensure radio wave exposure from these technologies remains safe.

The challenge we now face is making sure this new research counteracts the persistent misconceptions and misinformation out there regarding mobile phones and brain cancer.

There remains no evidence of any established health effects from exposures related to mobile phones, and that is a good thing. *—The Conversation*

The possibility that mobiles might cause cancer has been a long-standing concern ***PHOTO: PIXABAY***

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

China-linked 'Spamouflage' mimics Americans online to sway US polls

When he first emerged on social media, the user known as Harlan claimed to be a New Yorker and an Army veteran who supported Donald Trump for president. Harlan said he was 29, and his profile picture showed a smiling, handsome young man.

A few months later, Harlan underwent a transformation. Now, he claimed to be 31 and from Florida.

New research into Chinese disinformation networks targeting American voters shows Harlan's claims were as fictitious as his profile picture, which analysts think was created using artificial intelligence.

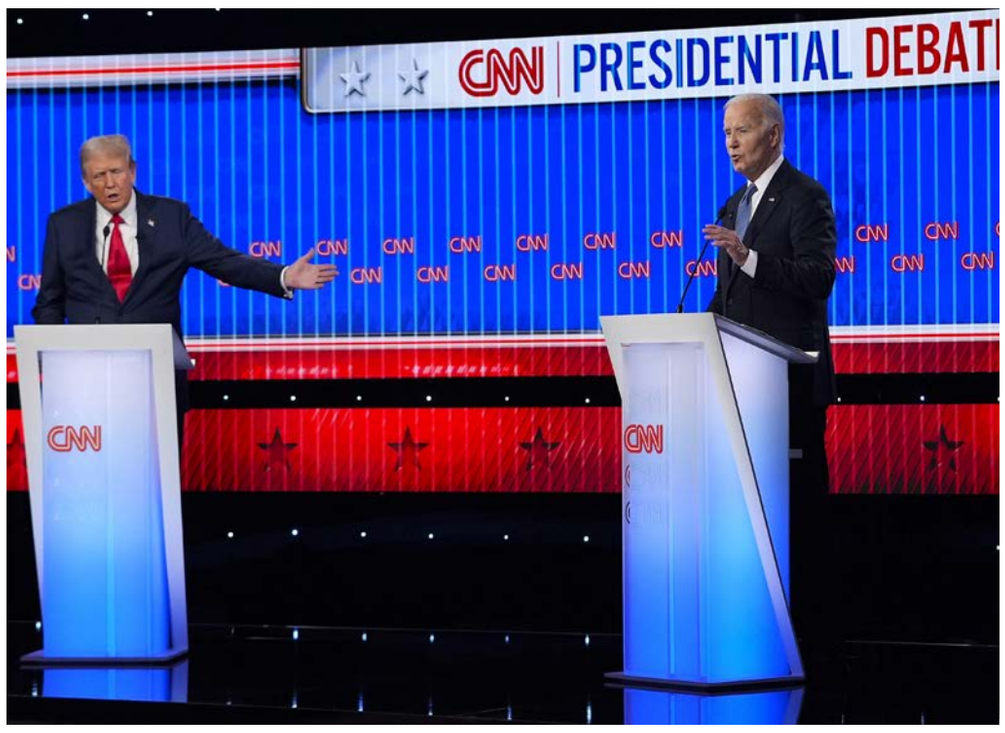
As voters prepare to cast their ballots this fall, China has been making its own plans, cultivating networks of fake social media users designed to mimic Americans. Whoever or wherever he really is, Harlan is a small part of a larger effort by US adversaries to use social media to influence and upend America's political debate.

The account was traced back to Spamouflage, a Chinese disinformation group, by analysts at Graphika, a New York-based firm that tracks online networks. Known to online researchers for several years, Spamouflage earned its moniker through its habit of spreading large amounts of seemingly unrelated content alongside disinformation.

"One of the world's largest covert online influence operations — an operation run by Chinese state actors — has become more aggressive in its efforts to infiltrate and to sway US political conversations ahead of the election," Jack Stubbs, Graphika's chief intelligence officer, told The Associated Press.

Intelligence and national security officials have said that Russia, China and Iran have all mounted online influence operations targeting US voters ahead of the November election. Russia remains the top threat, intelligence officials say, even as Iran has become more aggressive in recent months, covertly supporting US protests against the war in Gaza and attempting to hack into the email systems of the two presidential candidates.

China, however, has taken a more cautious, nuanced approach. Beijing sees little advantage in supporting one presidential candidate over the other, intelligence analysts say. Instead, China's disinformation efforts focus on campaign issues particularly important to Beijing — such as American policy toward Taiwan — while seeking to undermine confidence in elections, voting and the US in general.



Officials have said it's a longer-term effort that will continue well past Election Day as China and other authoritarian nations try to use the internet to erode support for democracy ***PHOTO: PTI***

Officials have said it's a longer-term effort that will continue well past Election Day as China and other authoritarian nations try to use the internet to erode support for democracy.

A message left with the Chinese Embassy in Washington was not immediately returned.

Compared with armed conflict or economic sanctions, online influence operations can be a low-cost, low-risk means of flexing geopolitical power. Given the increasing reliance on digital communications, the use of online disinformation and fake information networks is only likely to increase, said Max Lesser, senior analyst for emerging threats at the Foundation for defence of Democracies, a national security think tank in Washington.

"We're going to see a widening of the playing field when it comes to influence operations, where it's not just Russia, China and Iran but you also see smaller actors getting involved," Lesser said.

That list could include not only nations but also criminal organisations, domestic extremist groups and terrorist organisations, Lesser said.

When analysts first noticed Spamouflage five years ago, the network tended to post generically pro-China, anti-American content. In recent years, the tone sharpened as Spamouflage expanded and began focusing on divisive political topics like gun control, crime, race relations and support for Israel during its war in Gaza. The network also began creating large numbers of fake accounts designed to mimic American users.

Spamouflage accounts don't post much original content, instead using platforms like X or TikTok to recycle and repost content from far-right and far-left users. Some of the accounts seemed designed to appeal to Republicans, while others cater to Democrats.

While Harlan's accounts succeeded in getting traction — one video mocking President Joe Biden was seen 1.5 million times — many of the accounts created by the Spamouflage campaign did not. It's a reminder that online influence operations are often a numbers game: the more accounts, the more content, the better the chance that one specific post goes viral.

Many of the accounts newly linked to Spamouflage took pains to pose as Americans, sometimes in obvious ways. "I am an American," one of the accounts proclaimed.

Some of the accounts gave themselves away by using stilted English or strange word choices. Some were clumsier than others: "Broken English, brilliant brain, I love Trump," read the biographical section of one account.

Harlan's profile picture, which Graphika researchers believe was created using AI, was identical to one used in an earlier account linked to Spamouflage.

Messages sent to the person operating Harlan's accounts were not returned.

Several of the accounts linked to Spamouflage remain active on TikTok and X. *—PTI*

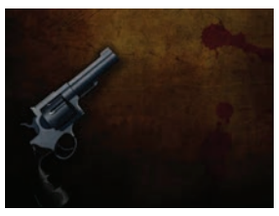


PHOTO: FREEPIK

Police officer shot dead in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, 4 SEPT

A police officer was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Pakistan's restive north-western Khyber Pakh-tunkhwa province on Wednesday. The police con-stable, identified as Waqar Ahmed, was shot dead near his residence in Nawarkhel village in Lakki Marwat dis-trict bordering Afghanistan. He died on the spot and his body was shifted to a hos-pital for postmortem. The gunmen managed to escape. A police contingent rushed to the site, cordoned off the entire area and launched a manhunt to arrest the ac-cused. On Tuesday, over 60 Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan terrorists attacked a border security checkpost in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but were pushed back by the security forces who killed two mili-tants, officials said. *—PTI*

Day 1: Pope Francis meets Indonesia President

JAKARTA, 4 SEPT

Pope Francis has a packed day of meetings on his first full day in Indonesia on Wednesday, seeing polit-ical and religious leaders and setting a rigorous pace for an 11-day, four-nation trip through tropical Southeast Asia and Oceania that will test his stamina and health. Cannons boomed at the presidential palace, setting a flock of white pigeons aflutter, as Francis joined Indonesian President Joko Widodo for the welcome ceremony along with President-elect Prabowo Subianto. A marching band, stiff-legged troops and children in tradi-tional Indonesian dress wel-comed the first pope to visit in 35 years. After their private meeting, Widodo and Francis were address-ing government authorities and the dip-lomatic corps. *—AP*

Egyptian Prez makes his first visit to Turkey

ANKARA, 4 SEPT

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi on Wednesday is making his first official visit to Turkey since assuming power, after the two regional powers ended years of ten-sions. El-Sissi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are set to discuss bilateral relations, the con-flict in Gaza and escalating tensions in the Middle East, among other topics. They are also expected to oversee the signing of more than a dozen cooperation agreements to strengthen the relationship between their nations, including in ener-gy, defense and tourism. In February, Erdogan made his first visit to Egypt in more than a decade after the two coun-tries agreed to mend ties and reappointed ambassadors. *—AP*

Philippine's fugitive ex-mayor arrested in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 4 SEPT

A dismissed town mayor who fled the Philippines after being accused of help-ing establish an illegal online gaming and scam centre catering mostly to clients in China has been arrested near Indonesia's capital, officials said Wednesday. Indonesian authorities arrested Alice Guo at a house in Jakarta's sat-ellite city of Tangerang just before midnight on Tuesday, according to Khrisna Murti, chief of the inter-national division of the National Police. Guo was in custody and awaiting deportation to the Philip-pines, Murti said, adding that her arrest was the result of "cooperation between Indonesian and Filipi-no's police." Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. thanked the Indonesian authorities. "Let this serve as a warning to those who attempt to evade justice," Marcos said. *—AP*

Ukrainian FM Kuleba has resigned, says official

His resignation request will be discussed by lawmakers

KYIV, 4 SEPT

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba resigned Wednesday, following an announcement last week from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that a Cabinet reshuffle was imminent.

Kuleba's resignation request will be discussed by lawmak-ers at the next plenary meet-ing, Speaker of parliament Ruslan Stefanchuk said on his Facebook page.

The foreign minister's resig-nation came as at least seven people were killed and 35 injured in an over-night strike on Lviv, city Mayor Andrii Sadovyi said Wednesday morning. A child and a medi-cal worker were among the dead and others are in critical condition, he said.

The attack happened a day after two ballistic missiles blasted a military academy and nearby hospital in Poltava in Ukraine, killing more than 50 people and wounding more than 200 others, Ukrainian officials said, in one of the deadliest Russian strikes since the war began.

The missiles tore into the heart of the Poltava Military Institute of Communication's main building, causing sever-al stories to collapse. The mis-siles hit shortly after an air-raid alert sounded, when many people were on their way to a bomb shelter, Ukraine's Defence Ministry said, describing the strike Tuesday as "barbaric."

Poltava is about 350 kilome-tres southeast of Kyiv, on the main highway and rail route between Kyiv and Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which is close to the Russian border. *—AP*

Conditions at Ukraine's power plant 'very fragile', says UN watchdog

KYIV, 4 SEPT

The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog on Tuesday described the situation at Europe's larg-est nuclear power plant as "very fragile" following fresh attacks near the site in central Ukraine, and vowed to expand the agency's inspections to include criti-cal electricity supplies.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, was mak-ing his 10th visit to Ukraine since the Russia-Ukraine war began in February 2022.

He was headed to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant after talks in Kyiv with Ukrainian President Vo-lodymyr Zelenskyy and top energy officials.

"I think the situation – I have very often character-ized it – as very fragile," Grossi told reporters in the Ukrainian capital. "The sta-tion is again on the verge of be-ing on a blackout. We've had eight of those in the past. A blackout (means) no power: no power, no cool-ing. No cooling, then maybe you have a disaster."

Earlier, Grossi posted on X that he was on his way to Zaporizhzhia to "help pre-vent a nuclear accident."

The Zaporizhzhia plant witnessed artillery shelling in the area on Monday **PHOTO: UKRAINE DEFENCE FORCE**

The Zaporizhzhia plant, which came under Russian control in the wake of its full-scale invasion, saw artillery shelling in the area on Monday that damaged the facility's power access, according to its op-erator Energoatom, which blamed Russia for the attacks. *—AP*

2 MILLION DISPLACED

More than 50 extremists on motorcycles rode into the Tarmuwa council area and fired multiple rounds **PHOTO: X@FIRSTLADYSHIP**

Boko Haram insurgents kill 100

MAIDUGURI, 4 SEPT

At least 100 villagers were killed in northeastern Nigeria when suspected Boko Haram Islamic extrem-ists opened fire on a market, on worship-pers and in people's homes, residents said Wednesday, the latest killings in Africa's lon-gest struggle with militancy.

More than 50 extremists on motorcycles rode into the Tarmuwa council area of Yobe state on Sunday evening and began firing before setting buildings ablaze, according to Yobe police spokesperson Dun-gus Abdulkarim.

The police blamed the attack on Boko Haram, which since 2009 has launched an insur-gency to estab-lish its radical interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, in the region. Boko Haram has since splintered into different factions, togeth-er accounting for the direct deaths of at least 35,000 people and the dis-placement of more than 2 million, as well as a humanitarian crisis with mil-lions of people in dire need of foreign aid.

At least 1,500 people have so far been killed in the region this year in attacks by armed groups, accord-ing to the US-based Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, or ACLED. Yobe Deputy Gov. Idi Barde Gubana gave a much lower death toll of 34 from Sunday's attack. Contradictory statistics are a common trend in the security crisis, with the death toll from survivors' count often higher than the of-ficial figure.

The 34 dead cited by the dep-uty governor were the ones buried in a single village, said Zanna Umar, a community leader, who said they have so far confirmed 102 villagers killed in the attack. Most of the others were either buried before officials arrived, or their bodies were taken to other places for burial.

Local media reported that the extremists claimed respon-sibility for the attack, saying it was in reprisal for villagers informing security operatives about their activities.

A number of Boko Haram members were killed as a result of the information passed on by villagers, the mil-itants were quoted as saying. *—AP*

PHOTO: X@RADARHITS

Kim executes 20 to 30 govt officers after floods kill thousands

SEOUL, 4 SEPT

Seoul is "closely monitoring" signs that North Korea exe-cuted several high-ranking officials, holding them respon-sible for devastating flood damage in late July, the National Intelligence Services (NIS) told NK News on Wednesday.

The statement came after South Korean broadcaster TV Chosun reported on Tuesday that the DPRK executed "20 to 30 officials at the same time" in late August over the flood damage, citing an un-named ROK government source.

The source reportedly said Kang Pong Hun, the party chief of Jagang Province, may have been one of those execut-ed. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un quickly blamed local officials for the flood damage in the aftermath of the disas-ter, accusing them of causing a "grave crisis" by failing to prepare.

After inspecting the damage, he also led an emergency Politburo meeting that replaced provincial par-ty chief Kang and head of the Ministry of Public Security Ri Thae Sop.

"Clearly things were bad in Jagang because that was the only province actually having the party chief secretary replaced without announcing he is used elsewhere. But to me it looks like Kang was not executed because he still was allowed to join that Politburo meeting until he was formally removed," Martin Weiser, an independent researcher and contributor to NK Pro, told NK News.

Nonetheless, he said the pos-sibility that North Korea has strongly punished top officials over the flood-ing appears "quite high" given that there was significant economic and industrial damage from the flooding in Jagang Province, as well as Sinuiju and North Pyongyan Province.

—Courtesy, NK News

Migrant boat trying to cross Channel day after tragedy

WIMEREUX, 4 SEPT

Just a day after 12 migrants died in a failed effort to cross the English Channel aboard a small inflata-ble, another boat carrying several dozen people appears to be making another crossing attempt from the coast of northern France on Wednesday, seemingly trying to head toward Britain.

Associated Press journalists on a beach in Wimereux, on the northern French coastline and close to the site of Tuesday's deadly sinking, broadcast live video of an inflatable boat crowded with people, seem-ingly migrants, out at sea.

The boat is so laden that some of those aboard, crammed side-by-side on the inflatable tubes, have their legs over the sides.

Many are wearing orange life preservers. A small patrol boat flying a French flag approached the in-flatable at one point and a crew person aboard then tossed more orange life vests — about half a doz-en of them — to people aboard the vessel, who caught them. *—AP*

US charges Hamas leader in connection with 7 Oct attack

WASHINGTON, 4 SEPT

The Justice Department announced criminal charges Tuesday against Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and other mili-tants in connection with the 7 October, 2023, rampage in Israel.

The criminal complaint filed in federal court in New York City includes charges of con-spiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, resulting in death. "The charges unsealed today are just one part of our effort to target every aspect of Hamas' operations," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a video statement. "These actions will not be our last."

Gaza's Health Ministry says 42 Palestinians were killed and 107 wounded in the latest 24-hour reporting period.

Sinwar was appointed the overall head of Hamas after the killing of Ismail Haniyeh in Iran and sits atop Israel's most-wanted list. He is believed to have spent most of the past 10 months living in tunnels un-der Gaza, and it is unclear how much contact he has with the outside world.

Yahya Sinwar **PHOTO: ECFR.EU**

- The criminal complaint filed in federal court in New York City includes charges of conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, resulting in death

Other Hamas leaders charged include Haniyeh; Marwan Issa, the deputy lead-er of Hamas' armed wing in Gaza who helped plan last year's attack; Khaled Mashaal, another Haniyeh deputy and a former leader of the group; Mohammed al-Masri and Ali Baraka. *—AP*

Thunberg arrested at Gaza protest

Copenhagen, 4 Sept

Danish police have arrested the environ-mental activist Greta Thunberg in Copenhagen at a pro-test against the war in Gaza, a spokesperson for the student group organising the demon-stration has said. Six people had been detained on Wednesday at the University of Copenhagen after 20 people blocked the entrance to a building and three entered, police said. *—Courtesy, The Guardian*

Campaign launched to increase participation of Indian-Americans

WASHINGTON, 4 SEPT

Ahead of US Presidential elections, an Indian diaspora group has launched a campaign to increase the policy participation of Indian-American voters in the polls. Launched by non-profit institution Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies, the "Indo American Votes Matter" campaign underscores the role the community can play in shaping the nation's future. A man also arrested at a Pennsylvania rally for Donald Trump had hoped to hang a banner to protest Trump's policies. *—PTI*

4 Indian nationals burnt alive in multiple-vehicle road accident in US

HOUSTON, 4 SEPT

Four Indian nationals, including a young woman, lost their lives and several others were injured in a multi-vehicle road accident in Texas during Labour Day. According to reports an SUV was among those vehicles that were halted when the acci-dent took place. The victims were identified as Aryan Raghunath Orampatti from Kukatpally suburb of Hyderabad, his friend Farooq Sheikh, Lokesh Palacharla, another Telugu student, and Darshini Vasudev from Tamil Nadu. *—PTI*

FOR A DECADE

French man recruited over 70 men to rape wife

PARIS, 4 SEPT

The trial of a man accused of repeatedly drugging his wife and recruiting more than 70 men to rape her while she was unconscious opened in Avignon, France, this week, drawing demonstrations out-side the courthouse and hor-ror across the country.

Prosecutors say that for nearly a decade Dominique Pélicot, 71, crushed sedating anti-anxiety medica-tion into his wife's dinners and used online platforms to invite men to sexually assault her in the cou-ple's home and other loca-tions used by the family. In an unusual move, the alleged vic-tim, 72, asked that the trial take place in open court, stat-ing that she wanted the world to know what had happened to her, one of her lawyers, Stéphane Babonneau, told The Washington Post in a phone interview Tues-day. And although The Post typically does not name victims of sex crimes, in this instance the woman asked to be identified by her married name, Gisèle Pélicot.

The trial of a man accused of repeatedly drugging his wife **PHOTO: X**

Dominique Pélicot has not disputed any of the facts of the case, Babonneau said. His law-yer, Béatrice Zavarro, told reporters on Monday that her client was "ashamed of what he did," according to French newspaper Le Monde. "He rec-ognizes what he did and there has not been an ounce of pro-test since the beginning," she added. Dominique Pélicot has said the men were all aware that his wife was drugged and unconscious, accord-ing to Le Monde. Police believe he laid out strict rules, including that the men should not smell of per-fume or smoke that might jog his wife awake, and that they should not wear condoms, Babonneau said.

—Courtesy, Washington Post

Musk's Starlink says it will block X in Brazil

SAO PAULO, 4 SEPT

Elon Musk's satellite-based internet service provider Starlink backtracked Tuesday and said it will com-ply with a Brazilian Supreme Court jus-tice's order to block the billion-aire's social media platform, X.

Starlink said in a statement posted on X that it will heed Justice Alexandre de Moraes' order despite him having fro-zen the company's assets. Previously, it informally told the telecommunications regu-lator that it would not comply until de Moraes reversed course.

De Moraes froze the compa-ny's accounts last week as a means to compel it to cover X's fines that al-ready exceeded $3 million, reasoning that the two companies are part of the same economic group. Starlink filed an appeal, its law firm Veirano told the Associated Press on Aug. 30, but has declined to comment further in the days since.

Elon Musk **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

Days later, the justice ordered the suspension of X for refus-ing to name a local legal repre-sentative, as required in order to receive notifications of court decisions and swiftly take any requisite action — par-ticular-ly, in X's case, the takedown of accounts.

The company has said it has more than 250,000 clients in Brazil. *—AP*

India's services sector activity hits 5-month high in Aug

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

India's services sector activity growth touched a five-month high in August on stronger rise in new work orders, while payroll numbers rose solidly as companies remained upbeat regarding the economic outlook, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index rose from 60.3 in July to 60.9 in August, registering the fastest expansion since March and was largely supported by productivity gains and positive demand trends.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The Composite PMI for India continued to show strong growth in August, driv-

PHOTO: PTI

en by accelerated business activity in the service sector, which experienced its fastest expansion since March. This growth was largely fuelled by an increase in new orders, particularly domestic orders," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

On the price front, input costs rose at their slowest pace in six months, with both the manufacturing and service sectors exhibiting the same pattern. Consequently, output price inflation receded in August.

However, the outlook for the Indian private sector over the next year has moderated, reaching its lowest level in 15 months due to competitive pressure, although the Future Output Index remained above the long-term average.

According to the survey, employment levels remained robust, though there was a slight decrease in the pace of hiring compared to July.

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite Output Index stood at 60.7 in August, unchanged from its July reading.

August survey data further showed that prices charged for Indian goods and services rose to a lesser extent than in July. Both the manufacturing companies and their services counterparts saw cost pressures receding in August. The aggregate rate of inflation retreated to a six-month low,

Gold slumps by ₹450; silver falls to ₹1,650

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

Gold prices slumped by Rs 450 to Rs 73,600 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday, extending losses for the third straight session amid decline in precious metal rates in the overseas markets. In the previous session, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 74,050 per 10 grams. Silver prices also plummeted by Rs 1,650 to Rs 83,600 per kilogram from Rs 85,250 per kg in the previous close, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also plunged by Rs 450 to Rs 73,700 per 10 grams. Domestically, traders said reduced demand from jewellers and retail buyers as well as global influences led to the fall in gold prices. In the international markets, Comex gold was trading 0.13 per cent lower at USD 2,519.80 per ounce.However, silver was quoting marginally higher at USD 28.40 per ounce globally.—*PTI*

Rupee falls 4 paise to close at 84.02 against US dollar

MUMBAI, 4 SEPT

The rupee fell 4 paise to close at 84.02 (provisional) on Wednesday amid a sharp decline in the domestic equity markets as investors stayed away from riskier assets. However, a weak dollar against major currencies overseas and a drop in crude oil prices capped further losses in the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 83.96 and traded in the range of 83.95-84.01 during the day. The unit moved in a tight range of 83.95-83.97 for most part of the session. However, it slipped at the fag-end of the trading hours to settle at 84.02 (provisional), 4 paise below its previous close of 83.98. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.17 per cent to 101.65. —*PTI*

Natco Pharma acquires 40M shares in eGenesis

HYDERABAD, 4 SEPT

Natco Pharma Ltd on Wednesday said its Canadian subsidiary acquired 40 million shares in eGenesis Inc., a biotechnology company at the forefront of xenotransplantation focused on developing safe and effective human compatible organs for transplant, for USD 8 million. The city-based drug maker in a statement said the eGenesis Genome Engineering and Production platform is the only technology of its kind to comprehensively address cross-species molecular incompatibilities and viral risk via genetic engineering to improve the lives of patients in need of a transplant. eGenesis is advancing development programs for kidney transplant, acute liver failure, and heart transplant, it said. In March 2024, eGenesis announced the world's first porcine kidney transplant in a living patient. The transplant was authorised by the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) under the Expanded Access pathway. —*PTI*

Welspun to set up ₹ 5,000 cr storage project in M'rashtra

MUMBAI, 4 SEPT

Welspun Group company Welspun New Energy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government to develop a 1.2 GW pumped hydroelectric storage project. As per a company release, the project, named 'Dhamni Pumped Hydro project', would come with an investment of approximately Rs 5,000 crore. The 1.2 GW pumped hydro project shall be constructed in the Pune and Raigad districts over the next 6-7 years. The MoU was signed at an event in Mumbai on Tuesday, in the presence of Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Welspun Group's Chairman Balkrishan Goenka and others. —*ANI*

Nifty halts 14-day rally; Sensex drops 202 pts

Nifty declines 81.15 pts to settle at 25,198.70

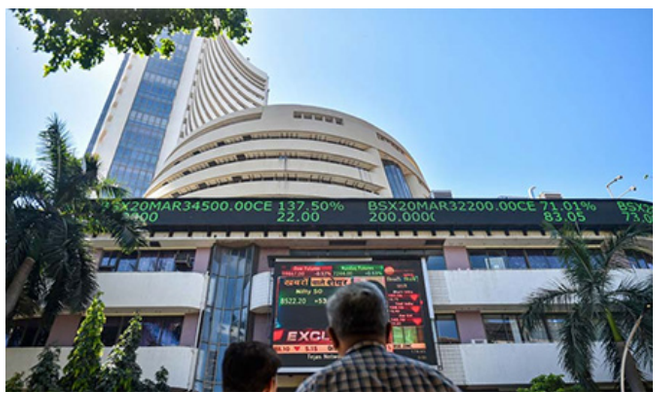
MUMBAI, 4 SEPT

Stock markets closed lower on Wednesday with Nifty taking a breather after a 14-day winning run and Sensex dropping by 202 points due to weak global trends on worries of potential slowdown in the US market.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 202.80 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 82,352.64. During the day, it tumbled 721.75 points or 0.87 per cent to 81,833.69. Snapping its 14-day rally, the NSE Nifty declined 81.15 points or 0.32 per cent to 25,198.70. Intra-day, it tanked 196.05 points or 0.77 per cent to 25,083.80. Nifty has surged nearly 1,141 points or 4.59 per cent in 14 straight days.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance and Adani Ports were the major laggards.

Asian Paints, Hindustan



Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma and Reliance Industries were among the gainers PHOTO: PTI

Unilever, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma and Reliance Industries were among the gainers. "The warning signals from weak US manufacturing data added concerns about a potential slowdown in the US economy, which dragged the domestic indices. Due to a lack of major domestic triggers, the indices will take direction based on global cues," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,029.25 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.14 per cent to USD 73.65 a barrel. —*PTI*

Nvidia loses $279B in biggest mkt wipeout

Nvidia's stock plunged 10% as global mkts fall

UNITED STATES, 4 SEPT

Shares in the AI chip designer Nvidia have continued to slide overnight after a report said US authorities were ramping up an investigation into whether the company had breached competition laws.

The company's shares fell 2.4 per cent in after-hours trading, exacerbating a near-10 per cent drop in the regular trading session that slashed its value by $279bn (£212bn) to $2.6tn, marking the largest one-day drop in history for a US company.

Overnight, the US Department of Justice sent subpoenas to Nvidia and other tech companies, in a move that will force recipients to provide information under law.

Officials are said to be concerned the company has made it harder for clients to switch to other semiconductor suppliers and is penalising buyers that refuse to exclusively use Nvidia's AI chips.

US Department of Justice sent subpoenas to Nvidia, making its CEO Jensen Huang lose $10B in a day PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

The sell-off on Tuesday came amid a wider sell-off on markets sparked by weak US manufacturing data that raised broader concerns about the outlook for the country's economy among investors. The Institute for Supply Management's monthly factory survey showed that manufacturing contracted at a moderate pace in August, with new orders, production output and employment levels falling.

It sent the S&P 500 index down more than 2per cent, while the tech-focused Nasdaq Composite shed almost 3.3per cent. Fears spread to Asia, where Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell by 4.2per cent on Wednesday and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index dropped 1.9per cent. —*The Guardian*

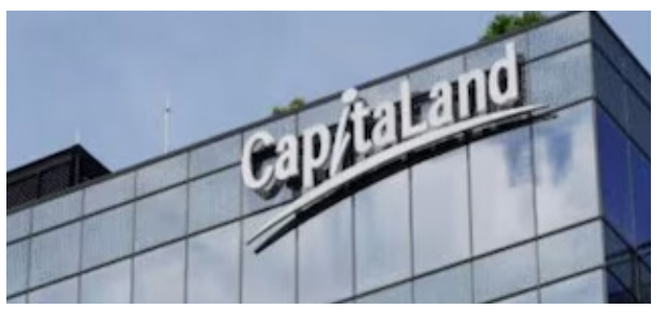
Singapore's CapitaLand to double its investment in India

SINGAPORE, 4 SEPT

Singapore-based diversified real estate group CapitaLand is planning to double its investment in India to over Rs 90,280 crore by 2028, the city-state's envoy to India said on Wednesday.

In a post on X, High Commissioner Simon Wong said it is good to see Singaporean doubling down on investments in India.

"Singapore's CapitaLand, one of Asia's largest diversified real estate groups, plans to more than double its funds under management in India to more than S$14.8 billion (>INR 90,280 Cr) by 2028," he said, citing an article published in The Edge newspaper.



Investment to be up by Rs 90,280 crore before 2028 PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

The news report came on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore, aimed at deepening the India-Singapore strategic partnership and attracting investment from the Southeast Asian nation.

Quoting CapitaLand Investment (CLI), the newspaper said, the company aims to more than double its funds under management (FUM) in India by 2028, up from its FUM of USD 7.4 billion – or INR 458.8 billion – as at June 30. The move will contribute to CLI's aim to achieve USD 200 billion by 2028 as well.

"India is a strategic market for us and a key contributor to CLI's overall business. India has been one of our fastest-growing markets, where our investments have tripled in the last seven years."

"With India's GDP forecasted to grow 7per cent in 2024 and its trajectory to be the world's third-largest economy in the next five years, the country is attracting demand from global corporations and institutional investors for quality real assets," CLI's group CEO Lee Chee Koon was quoted as saying in the report. —*PTI*

TN govt inks pact with Eaton and Assurant

CHENNAI, 4 SEPT

During the ongoing US visit of Chief Minister M K Stalin, the Tamil Nadu government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eaton, a technology leader in power management solutions, for a Rs 200 crore R & D and engineering centre expansion in Chennai.

The state government has also inked a pact with Assurant, a provider of comprehensive risk management solutions, to set up a Global Capability Centre, the first such facility of the insurance firm in India. Both Eaton Corporation, with headquarters in Dublin (Ireland) and Beachwood (Ohio-US) and the Atlanta (US) headquartered Assurant are 500 companies.

The agreements were signed on 3 Septmeber in Chicago and the Eaton's expansion initiative alone would provide job opportunities to 500 people, an official release said.

The Tamil Nadu government days ago signed an MoU, in the presence of the Chief Minister, with Google for setting up an AI (Artificial Intelligence) lab in Tamil Nadu. Stalin also had visited the offices of Apple, Google and Microsoft in the US and discussed opportunities open to them for making investment and forging partnerships in Tamil Nadu. —*PTI*

India allows 8,606 tonne sugar export to US

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

India has allocated 8,606 metric tonnes of sugar to be exported to the US under the Tariff Rate Quota scheme, according to a notification from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

The allocated sugar export under the TRQ scheme is for the US fiscal year 2025.

The export of sugar (HS Code 17010000) to the US and EU under TRQ is currently 'Free', subject to certain contains.

A tariff rate quota essentially is a quota for exports at relatively low duties. Once the limit is exhausted, a higher tariff applies to additional shipments. —*ANI*

PHOTO: PTI

Airtel deploys spectrum in R'than to boost 5G/4G network

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Wednesday said it has deployed more spectrum across all 50 districts in Rajasthan, boosting 5G/4G network capacities to spruce up voice and data connectivity for subscribers in the state.

The deployment will also widen Airtel coverage along highways and rail routes and increase its footprint in rural areas amid an exponential rise in the demand for connectivity.

An Airtel release said the company has completed the deployment of the additional spectrum it acquired in July 2024. The additional spectrum has been deployed across all 50 districts in the state.

"The deployment of additional 5MHz on the 1800 band and additional 4Mhz on the 900 band will give a boost to Airtel's 5G/4G network capac-

PHOTO: PTI

ities, which, in turn, will improve and enhance data speeds and provide significantly better coverage inside homes and buildings both in urban and rural areas."

Subscribers across Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Bikaner, Ajmer, Bhilwara, Alwar, Sikar and Pali and other locations will enjoy an elevated quality of service both on voice and data, the company added. Bharti Airtel secured 97 Mhz of spectrum at the recently concluded spectrum auction. —*PTI*

Govt eyes $1B exports of alcohol beverages: APEDA

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

With the global demand for Indian spirits growing at a healthy rate, the government is planning to promote both Indian alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in the international markets and is eyeing USD 1 billion (about Rs 8,000 crore) exports in few years.

The commerce ministry's arm APEDA (Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) said that India currently ranks 40th in the world for alcoholic beverage exports. As per estimates, the country has huge export potential.

The country's alcoholic beverages exports stood at over Rs 2,200 crore in 2023-24. The major destinations include UAE, Singapore, Netherlands, Tanzania, Angola, Kenya and Rwanda. —*PTI*

India to get spl vehicle for aircraft making

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

The government will set up a special purpose vehicle to push ahead with plans to start manufacturing commercial aircraft in India, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on Wednesday as he highlighted the potential of the country's fast-growing aviation sector.

The Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill 2024, which was passed by the Lok Sabha in August, includes provisions to regulate the design and manufacturing of aircraft, supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative for self-reliance.

"The government is strongly pushing the idea of India manufacturing its own planes," Naidu said. According to him, efforts are being to ensure that aircraft manufacturing activities can start in the next five years, he said. India is a key market for aircraft manufacturers - Boeing and Airbus.

State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is already into manufacturing small civilian planes but on a smaller scale.

India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets. —*PTI*

SILICON VALLEY'S HOT TOPIC

'Founder Mode vs Manager Mode': A tech guru's mantra

CALIFORNIA, 4 SEPT

"There are things founders can do that managers can't, and not doing them feels wrong to founders because it is," says Paul Graham. The founder of Y Combinator ignited the founder vs manager debate on social media with his essay, which was inspired by Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky's talk. Graham called for leaders in Silicon Valley to run their companies in founder mode instead of manager mode. Excerpts:

"As Airbnb grew, well-meaning people advised Brian that he had to run the company in a certain way to scale.

Their advice could be optimistically summarised as hiring good people and giving them room to do their jobs, he added, "Brian followed this advice and the results were disastrous.

So he had to figure out a better way, which he did partly by studying how Steve Jobs ran Apple."

He claims that the way managers are taught to run companies seems to be like modular design in the sense that you treat subtrees of the org chart as black boxes.

Y Comibnator founder Paul Graham's essay was inspired by Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky's talk held in Silicon Valley PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

The founder thinks that people who want to hire good people and give them room to do their jobs end up hiring professional fakers and letting them drive the company into the ground.

Highlighting the inadequacy of business schools, Graham said, "There are as far as I know no books specifically about founder mode. Business schools don't know it exists. All we have so far are the experiments of individual founders who've been figuring it out for themselves."

One theme that Graham noticed both in Brian's talk and when talking to founders afterward was, "Founders feel like they're being gaslit from both sides — by the people telling them they have to run their companies like managers, and by the people working for them when they do."

"Graham observes that founders can't run a 2000 people company the way they ran it when it had 20. He urged founders to delegate and just seek reports from managers.

He ended his essay by saying, "Look at what founders have achieved already, and yet they've achieved this against a headwind of bad advice. Imagine what they'll do once we can tell them how to run their companies like Steve Jobs instead of John Sculley." —*PTI*

Harvinder advances in quest for 2nd medal

India wins silver and bronze in both men's high jump T63 and javelin throw F46

PARIS, 4 SEPT

Tokyo Games bronze medallist Harvinder Singh secured back-to-back wins to reach quarter-finals in his bid for a successive Paralympics medal in archery competition here on Wednesday.

Harvinder, the first-ever Indian Paralympic medallist in archery, knocked out Tseng Lung-Hui of Chinese Taipei 7-3 before overcoming an opening set deficit to edge out Setiawan Setiawan of Indonesia 6-2 in the last-16 round.

Harvinder lost the first set by just one point (27-28) after a poor 8-point start. But he was quick to regain composure and nailed three 28s in a row to put pressure on his Indonesian opponent. Setiawan managed 25 and 27 and in the fourth set he misfired his arrow to score 15 to concede the match.

Earlier in his opening round, Harvinder drew the first set 25-25, before he shot one 10 and 9 to win the second 27-26 and take 3-1 lead. Lung-Hui dished out a near perfect third set when he dropped just one point to win it 29-26 and bring the scores level at 3-3.

But Lung-Hui faltered in the next two sets as Harvinder held his nerves to win 24-23 and 25-17 and seal his last-16 berth. In recurve open class, archers shoot from a standing position at a distance of 70m at a 122cm

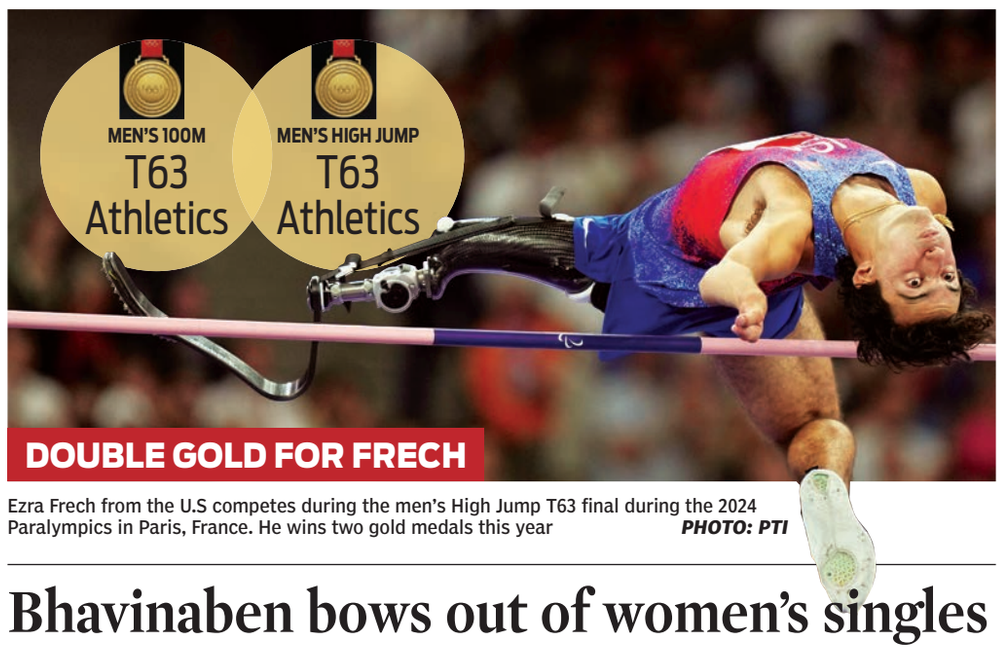
Harvinder Singh PHOTO: X

target made up of 10 concentric circles, scoring from 10 points down to 1 point from the centre outwards. Hailing from a family of farmers from Ajit Nagar in Haryana, Harvinder faced significant adversity early in life. When he was just one and a half years old, he contracted dengue and received injections for treatment. A gold medal at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games followed, and during the Covid-19 lockdown, his father turned their farm into an archery range to support his training. —*PTI*

Copy updated at 10 pm..

MEDAL TALLLY

COUNTRIES				
1. China	56	41	23	120
2. Britain	3	22	16	69
3. US	24	22	1	57
4. France	15	17	18	50
20. India	0	8	10	21

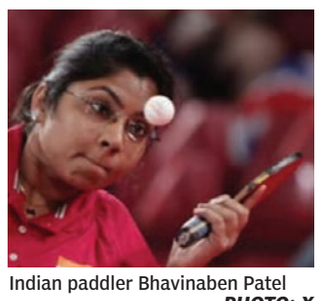


Ezra Frech from the U.S competes during the men's High Jump T63 final during the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France. He wins two gold medals this year PHOTO: PTI

Bhavinaben bows out of women's singles

PARIS, 4 SEPT

India's challenge in women's singles table tennis at the Paralympics ended here on Wednesday after Tokyo edition's silver-medallist Bhavinaben Patel lost to China's Ying Zhou 3-1 in the class 4 quarterfinal. Bhavinaben, who became India's first-ever medal winner in the sport with her silver in the Tokyo Paralympics, fought hard in the first two games and even won the third but eventually lost to her Chinese rival 12-14, 9-11, 11-8, 6-11. Earlier, the other women's singles player in class 3, Sonalben Patel lost to Croatia's Andela Muzinic Vincetic in the round of 16. In women's doubles, the Indian pair of Bhavinaben and Sonalben had missed out on securing a medal when they lost to the Korean combination. —*PTI*



Indian paddler Bhavinaben Patel PHOTO: X

INDIAN SHOOTERS FAIL TO PROGRESS TO FINAL

CHATEAUROUX, 4 SEPT

The Indian shooters Nihal Singh and Rudransh Khandelwal failed to make the final of mixed 50m pistol (SH1) competition at the Paris Paralympics here on Wednesday.

Nihal, the 2023 world championship bronze medallist, finished 19th. He had an aggregate score of 522 across six series. Competing in his maiden Paralympics, 17-year-old Rudransh, who lost his left leg in a freak mishap when he was just eight-years-old, scored 517 to sign off in the 22nd spot in the qualification round. Korea's Jo Jeongdu topped the qualification with a Paralympic Qualification Record of 553.

Athletes classified in SH1 are able to hold their gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position (in a wheelchair or chair). As a rule, SH1 athletes may use a pistol or a rifle. —*PTI*

Hockey Inter-Dept Nat'l C'Ship to begin from 5 Sept

PUNE, 4 SEPT

Hockey Maharashtra will host the fourth edition of the Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship here from 5 to 15 September, featuring 18 teams divided in four pools. The 10-day tournament will be played at the Major Dhyanchand Stadium in Pune, which will be the third city to host the competition after Bengaluru and New Delhi. Among the competitors will be two-time winners and defending champions Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) and the 2022 winners in Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB). Four teams will feature in each pool while top two will advance to the last-eight round. —*PTI*

PHOTO: THREADS

Deaf Shooting C'ships: Dhumal wins Bronze

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

Pranjali Dhumal on Tuesday secured a bronze medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the World Deaf Shooting Championship in Hanover, Germany. Pranjali qualified for the finals with a deaf world record and championship record score of 571. In the finals, Dhumal clinched the bronze by hitting three out of five shots in the eighth series, edging out Croatia's Lana Skeledzija by a single point. She finished with a score of 29, trailing the Ukrainian duo Sofiia Olenych and Halyna Mosina, who claimed gold and silver, respectively. Another Indian shooter, Anuya Prasad, finished fifth in the finals with a score of 21, after qualifying with 558 points. Vedika Sharma, the third Indian in the fray, ended her qualification round with a score of 473. India have won three gold, six silver, and four bronze so far in the tournament. —*PTI*

Pak drop to 8th in Test rankings after loss to B'desh

DUBAI, 4 SEPT

Pakistan's first-ever series loss to Bangladesh has resulted in Shan Masood's team slipping down to the eighth position in the ICC Test rankings besides hitting a historic low of lowest rating points since 1965. Pakistan were thrashed by 10 wickets in the first Test while the hosts lost the second by six wickets with Rawalpindi hosting both the matches. "Pakistan dropped two places in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings to go to eighth position after suffering a shock series loss at home to Bangladesh," the ICC said on its website. "The hosts were sixth in the rankings table before the series, but back-to-back losses have seen them drop below West Indies to eighth with 76 rating points. —*PTI*

Ishan unlikely for Duleep Trophy first-round match

BENGALURU, 4 SEPT

Wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan is a doubtful starter at least for the first round of the Duleep Trophy, beginning here on Thursday, as he has developed a hamstring niggle. Kishan was included in India D side, which is being captained by Shreyas Iyer. They will face India C at Anantapur in the opening round. It has been learnt that Kishan suffered the injury while playing for Jharkhand in the recent Buchi Babu Invitational Tournament in Coimbatore. There were talks about Sanju Samson being drafted in as a replacement, but most likely, KS Bharat will don the wicketkeeper's gloves for India D in the first round. Kishan is yet to arrive in Anantapur. India A pacer Prasidh Krishna, who is recuperating from a surgery he had undergone earlier this year, will also miss the Duleep Trophy's first round encounter with India B here at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. —*PTI*

NEW RULE

ISL mandates Indian assistant coaches

KOLKATA, 4 SEPT

A mandatory Indian assistant coach for all clubs, permission of concussion substitutes and appeal against "wrongful" red card decisions are some of the new rule changes that were announced by the Indian Super League on Wednesday ahead of the upcoming 11th season beginning on September 13.

As per the new rules, "all the teams must have an Indian assistant coach, holding the AFC Pro License (or equivalent)". "If the head coach is relieved from his position or suspended for certain matches, the Indian assistant coach will take over all head coach duties as the Interim head coach," the new rule stated.

A perfect case in point will be regarding FC Goa where Gourmangi Singh will take over the coaching role when Manolo Marquez, who is the current India head coach, is not available. A player or club can also contest a dismissal if they believe a player was wrongly sent off due to an obvious referee error. Such a provision has been introduced by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and incorporated in the League Rules for ISL 2024-25.

But such an application will be rejected and the fee forfeited if the dismissal was for receiving a second caution or using offensive language. To file an appeal, the player/club must notify the match commissioner within two hours of the match ending and submit it in writing with evidence and the fee to AIFF within 24 hours. —*PTI*

Sharath, Manika headline TT squad for Asian C'ships

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

Veteran Sharath Kamal and star female player Manika Batra were on Wednesday named in the India squad for the 27th Asian Table Tennis Championships, scheduled to be held in Astana, from October 7 to 13. Sharath, the 42-year-old who recently featured in his fifth and last Olympics, is the captain of the men's team comprising Manav Thakkar, Harmeet Desai, G Sathiyan and Manush Shah. Manika will lead the women's team which also has Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee, Diya Chital and Sutirtha Mukherjee.

"The selection process was rigorous, with the TTFI giving precedence to the world ranking, international experience, and performance at the national level as key criteria for the final squad," said the TTFI in a statement. The Indian team has been under the guidance of foreign expert Massimo Constantini, who has been working to fine-tune the players' skills and strategies since his return to India in June. —*PTI*

For the next nine months to one year I would still be an active player. But at the same time, I will be exploring options in IOC and ITTF.

—Sharath Kamal, Table Tennis player

Sathish, Sankar reach Taipei Open QFs

TAIPEI, 4 SEPT

India's Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Sankar Subramanian reached the men's singles quarterfinals of the Taipei Open badminton tournament but women's singles players had to deal with disappointment here on Wednesday.

In men's singles, Karunakaran was made to work hard for a win but he eventually prevailed over Kantaphon Wangcharoen from Thailand 24-22, 23-21 to make the quarterfinals. Subramanian also had to toil but the Indian shuttler got the better of his Finnish opponent Joakim Oldorff, winning his round of 16 match 21-12, 19-21, 21-11.

In another round of 16 men's singles contest, Kiran George was in the lead when he won the first set against Indonesia's Yohanes Saut Marcellyno but the latter fought back to win the contest 15-21, 21-8, 21-16 in his round of 16 contest. Meanwhile, Indian players had to deal with disappointment in women's singles as three of them lost in the quarterfinals to crash out of the tournament.

Aakarshi Kashyap was defeated in straight sets 19-21, 18-21 by Thailand's Pornpicha Choeikeewong while the world No 3 Tai Tzu Ying. Later on Wednesday, Indian women's doubles' pair of Rituparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda will be in action against Hong Kong's Lok Lok Lui and Hiu Yan Tsang while Rakshitha Ramaraj will take on Japan's Asuka Takahashi in women's singles quarterfinals. —*PTI*

US OPEN SEMIS

Navarro to face Sabalenka

NEW YORK, 4 SEPT

Emma Navarro's first Grand Slam semifinal will come at the U.S. Open against Aryna Sabalenka, someone trying to win her second major trophy of the year and third overall.

Navarro, an American who is seeded 13th, used a stunning turnaround to grab the last six games of her quarterfinal against Paula Badosa for a 6-2, 7-5 victory at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday, following up her upset of defending champion Coco Gauff.

There was no such drama in No. 2 Sabalenka's 6-1, 6-2 win against No. 7 Zheng Qinwen, the gold medalist at the Paris Olympics last month, in a rematch of Sabalenka's victory in the Australian Open final.

Aryna Sabalenka and Emma Navarro PHOTO: X/@USOPEN

With Roger Federer in the stands, attending the U.S. Open for the first time since his retirement, Sabalenka displayed a typically powerful performance to get into the semifinals in New York for the fourth year in a row. In 2023, she was the runner-up to Gauff. Sabalenka said she saw Federer in the crowd and figured he was there to watch Frances Tiafoe and Grigor Dimitrov in the match that followed hers.

She is trying to become the first woman since Angelique Kerber in 2016 to win the hard-court major titles at the Australian Open and U.S. Open. Sabalenka defeated Zheng in January for a second consecutive title at Melbourne Park. —*AP*

Tiafoe, Fritz to meet in an all-American semi

NEW YORK, 4 SEPT

Frances Tiafoe and Taylor Fritz set up an all-American semifinal at the U.S. Open with victories Tuesday, guaranteeing the United States a man in the title match at the country's Grand Slam tournament for the first time in 18 years.

The 20th-seeded Tiafoe made it to the final four at Flushing Meadows for the second time in three years when his quarterfinal opponent, Grigor Dimitrov, stopped playing because of an injury in the fourth set. Tiafoe was leading 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 4-1 with midnight approaching when Dimitrov retired from the match, providing an anticlimactic ending to a contest that was not necessarily of the highest quality.

"It's not the way I want to get through," Tiafoe said, "but obviously happy to get through. Another semifinal here. Incredible." Just one glimpse of the sort of uneven play from both: Dimitrov held three set points in the tiebreaker at 6-3. On the first, he double-faulted. On the second, he double-faulted again. On the third, Tiafoe double-faulted, handing over that set.

Hours earlier, Fritz advanced in a far more satisfying way, watching one last errant forehand from his higher-ranked, more-accomplished opponent land wide. Fritz dropped his neon-colored racket, clenched both fists and screamed, "Come on!" No American man has won a Grand Slam singles trophy since Andy Roddick triumphed in 2003. —*AP*

Bopanna & Sutjiadi lose mixed doubles

Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi lost to the American pair of Donald Young and Taylor Townsend 3-6, 4-6 in the mixed doubles semifinal. In the quarterfinals, Bopanna-Sutjiadi had recorded a hard-fought win over Ebden and Czech's Barbora Krejcikova in a contest lasting more than 1.30 hours. —*PTI*

WELCOME BACK

Dravid set to be appointed Rajasthan Royals head coach for IPL 2025

NEW DELHI, 4 SEPT

Rahul Dravid, who masterminded India's T20 World Cup 2024 triumph, is set to take over Rajasthan Royals' head coach role in the IPL 2025.

Dravid, who is currently on a short career-break since India's victory at Barbados in June, will soon start working with the franchise on important issues such as player retention ahead of the auction later this year.

"The talks have reached the final stages and he will soon step into the head coach job," a source close to the development told PTI. Kumar Sangakkara, who has been Royals' Director of Cricket since 2021, will continue in his role and is likely to be more hands-on with Barbados Royals (CPL) and Paarl Royals (SA20). Dravid has a long-standing association with Royals as their captain for two seasons in 2012 and 2013 before serving as mentor for two more years. Dravid then moved to Delhi Capitals in a similar role in 2016 and continued with the team till he assumed the role of the head of National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

In 2021, he moved on from NCA to take up India's head coach role from Ravi Shastri. Now at Royals, Dravid will reunite with Sanju Samson, who is all set to be retained as RR captain for another season. —*PTI*

TEAM INDIA'S PERFORMANCE UNDER DRAVID'S ERA

Format	Matches	Wins
ODIs	56	41
T20s	69	48

PHOTO: ANI

I've not been up to my own expectations in Test: Gill

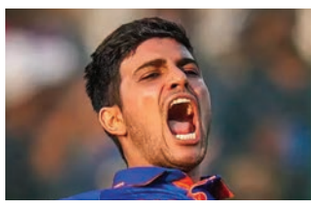
BENGALURU, 4 SEPT

Shubman Gill understands that his Test career has not touched the expected peaks yet, but the right-hander is banking on an improved defence against spinners to make a mark in the upcoming season that will feature 10 traditional format matches.

Gill made close to 500 runs in the home series against England this year in, perhaps, his best sustained outing in Test cricket so far, and now he wants to build on that from the two-match series against Bangladesh, starting from September 19, where he will be challenged by a set of experienced visiting spinners.

"I worked on my defence a little bit more against spinners. You should be able to defend a lot more when you are playing on a turning track against spinners, then you can play the scoring shots," Gill, who will lead Team A in the Duleep Trophy, said here on Wednesday. "With more T20s being played...I won't say on flat tracks but on batting-friendly tracks, I think it takes away a little bit of your defensive game. So, that was my focus in the England series," he added.

Unlike in white ball formats where Gill is a storm force, the 24-year-old is yet to blaze the Test arena, and he hoped for a turnaround sooner than later. —*PTI*



Shubman Gill PHOTO: PTI